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Of Barbarous and Execrable

Murthers & Adulteries:

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London: Printed by *W. O.* for *H. Nelme*, at the Sign of the Leg and Star in *Cornhil*, 1697.

1132.a.37

THE

Triumphs of Divine Justice.

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Vengeance Divine does first or last pursue,
The Sin of Murder and Adultery too.

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THE

THE TRIUMPHS OF Divine Juſtice, OVER Inhumane Murtherers, &c.

The INTRODUCTION.

IN all the black Catalogue of Sins committed in the World, there is none that the Juſtice of GOD has ſo viſibly witneſſed againſt, and brought 'em here to juſt and deſerved Puniſhment, as that barbarous and execrable Sin of Murther; which is the Defacing the Image of God in Man, whom he created after his own

Likeneſs. 'Tis true, that Image originally conſiſted in Righteouſneſs and Holineſs, which our firſt Parents, through the Temptations of Satan, defaced and ſpoiled, by their Eating the Forbidden Fruit: Yet ſtill their is ſomething of the Image of GOD remaining in Man; and the Humane Nature is dignify'd even above the Angelical, becauſe it has been aſſumed by the Divine Nature, and united to it by an inſeparable Union, in the Perſon of the Ever-bleſſed JESUS. And ſince our Souls are no other than the infuſed Breath of the Almighty, who is alone the Lord of Life and Death, it is not lawful for any Perſon to take away our Lives, unleſs ourſelves have forfeited them to the Juſtice of the Law; and therefore has the Law of GOD, and the Laws of Men alſo, in all civiliz'd Nations, made a Fence about them. And it is not without Reaſon; for ſo much has the Devil work'd upon the Corruption and Depravity of our Natures, that Murder was one of the firſt Sins committed in the World; poor innocent *Abel*, falling by the barbarous Hands of his inhumane Brother *Cain*; who thought himſelf ſecure from a Diſcovery, becauſe there was no Eye to witneſs it; and was ſo confident of the Concealment of his Villany,

ny, that he had the Front to deny it even to GOD himself: But there is no Covering so dark, or Veil so thick, to hide from his All-seeing Eye: And tho' *Abel* was struck dumb, yet his immolated Blood cry'd loud to Heaven for Vengeance: 'Tis true, it seemed good to the Almighty to spare then that Murderer's Life; yet laid upon him so great a Mark of his Displeasure, that wretched *Cain* cry'd out, His Punishment was more than he could bear. And most are of Opinion that, that Mark that GOD is said to set upon him, that none might Kill him, was that Despair and Horror of his Conscience that never suffer'd him to be at rest. And yet this horrid Sin of Murther so prevail'd in his accursed Race, that in a few Years after, it brought an over-flowing Deluge on the World; for GOD himself to *Noah* assigns this as the Cause of that tremendous Judgment, That the Earth was fill'd with Cruelty. And after the Flood, GOD was pleased to make early Provision against this Sin of Murther; ordaining, as a perpetual and everlasting Law, That *whoso sheddeth Man's Blood, by Man shall his Blood be shed*; rendring this also as the Reason of it, That *Man is made in the Image of GOD*, Gen. 9. 6. And this is also one of the Ten

Commandments, given from GOD by *Moſes* to the Children of *Iſrael*, *Thou ſhalt not kill.*

And yet, notwithſtanding theſe Expreſs Precepts, for the ſecurity of our Lives, ſuch is that Atheiſm and Infidelity that is lodg'd in the hearts of the Children of Men, that the Devil oft-times prevails upon them to commit this Barbarous and Execrable Sin; encourag'd thereto by a fond Conceit that it ſhall ne'er be known: But, Reader, in the following Narrations thou wilt find how oft they have deceiv'd themſelves therein, and how unexpectedly and ſurpriſingly they have been brought to light, and puniſh'd for them, when they thought of nothing leſs; and the Finger of GOD has viſibly pointed 'em out, and diſcover'd 'em; that thoſe that read the following Relations may and muſt from thence conclude, that 'tis in vain for ſuch to hope for a Concealment; ſince, as *Solomon* ſays in another caſe, The Birds in the Air will find it out, and that which hath wings will diſcover the matter.

The reading hereof, I doubt not, will be very affecting to the Reader, and the Truth contained in them is unqueſtionable; many of them being well known to the Auther, and moſt of them ſuch as never were be-

before in Print: And the reſt ſuch as are collected out of approved Authers, and very well Atteſted. And that the Reader may abhor and tremble at the Barbarous Butcheries and Murthers here related, and admire at the wonderful Wiſdom and Juſtice of GOD in the Diſcovery of them and juſt Puniſhment of the Actors, that ſo GOD may be glorified thereby, is the End and Deſign of the Writer.

Farewel.

NARRATION I.

THAT the City of *Dublin* is the Metropolis of the Kingdom of *Ireland*, where the Government reſides, and where the Courts of Judicature and Terms are kept, is very well known unto all: In the Year 1657, *Henry Cromwel*, the youngeſt Son to *Oliver* (then Lord-Protector of *England*) being then Lord-Lieutenant of *Ireland*, two Perſons living at, or near *Belfaſt*, a Town in the Province of *Ulſter*, in the North Parts of that Kingdom, had ſome Buſineſs to diſpatch in *Dublin*, at *Michaelmas* Term, for which purpoſe they reſolved to come up to *Dublin* together; and well knowing that nothing was to be done among the Lawyers without mony, they brought a conſiderable quantity of that along with them: In their way to *Dublin*, they took up their Lodging at a Town call'd *Balruddery*, four Miles on this ſide *Drogheda*, and ſixteen Miles diſtant from *Dublin*: they lay in that Town at the Poſt-maſter's Houſe; and, as ſoon as they came in, gave their Portmanteau's to their Land-

Landlady, desiring her (their Monies being therein) to keep them safe for them till the Morning; and then, having first look'd to their Horses, and given them some Corn, and afterwards taken some small Supper themselves, they went to Bed: But their Frugality did not at all please their Hostess, who knowing they had Mony enough, thought they spent too little; and she could not forbear shewing her Resentments to some Guest then drinking in her House; telling them, *There is a Couple of rich Cormudgeons gone to Bed, that have spent but a Groat apiece, though they have Mony enough: But you* (said she) *have already spent your Eight-pence apiece; (God's Blessing on your Hearts) though you come by your Mony hard enough.* Upon this Declaration of hers, one of the Company, who it seems was a Popish Priest, (every Village there being supply'd with at least one of them) cries out, *Damn 'em, let's cut their Throats.* And the Hostess repartee'd, *They deserve it.* But that Discourse being wav'd, in a little time the Company broke up: And one of 'em, which happen'd to be a Carpenter, went to Bed, and was lodg'd in the next Room to that where the two Strangers lay; the Carpenter, having been drinking hard, quickly fell asleep; but was awak'd out of

it by an unuſual Noſe in the next Chamber, where he alſo perceiv'd a Light; this caus'd him to riſe out of his Bed, and peep thro' the Chinks at which the Light came in, to ſee what the matter was; but it had been better for him he had lain ſtill: For he there ſaw ſeveral Folks holding, and cutting one of the Strangers Throats, and a Woman holding a Baſon, into which the Blood ran, from the Wound they had made: This barbarous Cruelty put the poor Carpenter into ſuch a Fright, that he could not forbear crying out, at the Surprize he was in. His crying out gave the Alarm to the Murtherers, who ſtrait came into his Chamber, and taking him with them into the other, he there ſaw one Man lie dead, and the other bound and gagg'd; at which he was not a little afrighted, fearing himſelf ſhould be quickly ſerved in the ſame manner; but they bid him be of good heart, for they would do him no Hurt, but intended that he ſhould come in as a Sharer with them in the Booty they were to have: and to make ſure of him, they told him it muſt be his turn to cut the Throat of him that was gagg'd and bound. This hard Condition the Carpenter was very unwilling to accept; but they poſitively told him, That un-

unleſs he preſently did it, they would cut his Throat; for they had already begun, and there was now no going back. The poor Carpenter being in this ſtrait, unwillingly became the other Man's Executioner, cutting his Throat (gagg'd as he was) whilſt they held him, not ſuffering him to ſpeak one word: This bloody Work being over, they remov'd the Bodies of the murther'd Men, burying them underneath a Dunghil in the Back-ſide; and ſo likewiſe they did the Horſes, whom they alſo kill'd. After this, they ſhar'd the Mony in their Portmantueau's, and gave the Carpenter forty Shillings for his Share: And then the Popiſh Prieſt, (who was the chief of theſe Murtherers) caus'd each of 'em to take an Oath, by which they bound themſelves to Secrecy, upon pain of Eternal Damnation; giving them alſo that which he call'd the Sacrament as a ſtronger Tye upon them, to conceal their Villany: And thus they thought they had made all ſure. The Actors of this barbarous Tragedy were the Poſt-maſter and his Wife, a Coach-man and his Wife, the Oſtler, the Poſt-boy, and the Popiſh Prieſt, and at laſt the Carpenter. The two murther'd Men were miſs'd and lamented by their Friends and Relations; but without know-

knowing what became of them. And the Murtherers made themſelves merry with the Price of Blood, not doubting but they had well enough ſecur'd themſelves from being Diſcover'd.

But, alas! how does the Devil befool Men? Is there any place where the Workers of Iniquity can hide themſelves from Heav'n's All-piercing Eye? No, no; it is in vain to think it: For however for a time they may Eſcape, yet in the end, their Sin will ſurely find them out; as the Sequel will make manifeſt: For the poor Carpenter (who was but an involuntary Murderer) was continually haunted with the Guilt of that bloody Fact; inſomuch that he could never be at reſt; and about two Years afterwards, being at a place call'd *Colerain*, in the North of *Ireland*, and working there, he would be often talking to himſelf, and ſaying, That he ſhould certainly be damn'd, for he was a Murderer, and no Murderer could have Eternal Life, with ſeveral other ſuch-like Expreſſions: Which being over-heard by ſome of his Fellow-workmen, they reſolved to acquaint a Conſtable with it, and ſo have him apprehended and examined; which they accordingly did; and being brought before a Juſtice, and ask'd the reaſon of thoſe Expreſſions

preſſions he had been heard to uſe; he deſir'd of the Juſtice to know, Whether it was lawful for a Man to diſcover that which he had bound himſelf with an Oath, upon pain of Eternal Damnation, never to reveal? The Juſtice told him, That if it was a wicked thing he had ſo promis'd to conceal, his promiſing to conceal it did agravate his Crime, and his keeping of that Promiſe did ſo much more; telling him, That there was no hope of Mercy for him, but by breaking of that Promiſe, and confeſſing of his Sin; alledging that Text in the Proverbs, *He that covereth his Sins ſhall not proſper; but he that confeſſeth and forſaketh them ſhall find Mercy.* Upon this, the poor Wretch, with abundance of Tears, confeſt the whole black Tragedy before related, with all the particular Circumſtances mentioned; adding, That he both knew he deſerv'd to Die, and was alſo willing Juſtice ſhould be executed upon him: for that his Life had been a Burthen to him ever ſince. The Juſtice forthwith committed him to Priſon; and took care to ſend to *Dublin* to have the reſt of the Actors in this bloody Tragedy ſecur'd, before the News of this Man's Confeſſion ſhould come to their Ears: This was ſo prudently manag'd, that it was happily perform'd; and they

they were all ſecur'd, when they thought all the Danger had been over: Upon the News of their being apprehended and impriſon'd, the Carpenter was convey'd to *Dublin*, and ſoon after had before the Mayor to Confront the other Criminals, who all with great Confidence denyed it; alledging, That they knew nothing of it, nor that to their knowledge, they never ſaw the Carpenter before: Tho' the Carpenter affirm'd the whole matter to their Faces; who were thereupon all committed back to Priſon.

Before the Seſſions, the Relations of the two murder'd Perſons having heard of this ſtrange Diſcovery of it, came up to *Dublin*, and examin'd the Carpenter as to the time, and what manner of Men, and what manner of Horſes they had; which the Carpenter anſwer'd to that ſatisfaction, that it left them no room to doubt but that it was their Relations which had been muder'd.

When the Seſſions came, they were all brought upon their Tryal, and the Carpenter was the only poſitive Witneſs againſt them; but the Circumſtances went far; for the Relations of the murder'd Men affirm'd, That they went towards *Dublin* at that time, that they deſign'd to lie that night at *Balruddery*; and that they were ſuch manner of Men,

Men, and their Horſes of ſuch a colour as the Carpenter had deſcrib'd. The Poſt-maſter deny'd any knowledge of it, with the greateſt Aſſeverations poſſible; and deſir'd, That ſince the Carpenter had declar'd that the Men and Horſes were buried in the Backſide, under the Dunghil, that ſearch might be made in that place for the Bodies; which if found, would be a convincing Proof. In like manner the reſt deny'd the Fact, and pleaded their own Innocence. Notwithſtanding which, the Jury brought them all in Guilty. Before Sentance, the Judge cauſed ſeveral Perſons to go down to *Balruddery*, and ſearch for the dead Bodies of the Men and Horſes, which they did, but found them not. Which the Priſoners mightily improv'd as a Proof of their Innocence. But it was generally ſuppos'd, that being fearful of the Carpenter, they might after by degrees remove the Bodies to another place, as the only means to invalidate his Evidence. However, Sentence of Death paſs'd upon them all. After which many Learned and Pious Divines came to them in Priſon, labouring to bring them, to a Confeſſion of the Sin for which they were to die; but to no purpoſe.

The

The Day appointed for Execution being come, they were carried to the Gallows in Carts provided for that purpose: The Gallows then stood at the West-end of the City on a large Green, at that time call'd *Gallows-green*: Thither it was the Criminals were carried: And the Carpenter that had been the Evidence against all the rest, was first ty'd up and executed; (they being all executed one after another, and not altogether.) Before the Carpenter's Execution, he made this Speech,

Good People, I am come hither to suffer a shameful Death, justly inflicted upon me for the bloody Crime of Murther, of which I do acknowledge myself Guilty; and for which I hope God will pardon me, and wash away my Blood-guiltiness with the Blood of my dearest Saviour Jesus Christ; and which I beg of you all to pray for me. 'Tis true, I was drawn to commit this Fact against my will, even for the saving of my own Life; as these my Fellow-sufferers can testifie if they would: And it grieves me to the very Soul that they should all continue to plead their Innocence, when I know, and their own Consciences know, and (which is more than all) God knows that they are all Guilty. What would become of me, if I should go out of the World with

a

a Lie in my Mouth, and bring upon my own Soul the Guilt of the Blood of ſo many Perſons as are here to ſuffer, if they were not Guilty? I call God to witneſs, before whoſe righteous Bar I am now going to appear, that I have no Prejudice againſt their Perſons, and that they never did me any hurt in their lives, otherwiſe than by their engaging me in this barbarous Murther, for which I now muſt juſtly ſuffer; and would not for the whole World bring the Guilt of their Blood upon me. And I do further declare, That it was only the Horror I felt in my own Conſcience for the ſhedding of that innocent Blood, for which I am now to ſuffer, that caus'd me to reveal it. Good People, pray for me, that at this my laſt Moment, I may be receiv'd into the Arms of Everlaſting Mercy, through Jeſus Chriſt. Amen.

Soon after this, he was turn'd off; and the Sheriff preſently after caus'd the Rope to be cut, and the Man taken down, and means uſed to bring him to himſelf again; and then was, by the Sheriff and ſome Miniſters there, exhorted, That ſince he had taſted ſomething of Death, and was as it were by a Miracle brought to Life again, he ſhould now declare the Truth, and not wrongfully accuſe ſo many innocent People.

After

After they had made an end of ſpeaking, the poor Man burſt out into Tears, and deſir'd them for God's ſake to trouble him no further, for what he had already declared was the Truth, and he would affirm it if he was to die a thouſand times, he could ſay no more than what he had already ſaid, That they were all guilty, every one of 'em. Some little time after which, he was ty'd up again with a new Cord, and hang'd till he was dead.

The next Perſon ty'd up, was the Popiſh Prieſt, who after ſeveral Croſſings, before he was turn'd off, expreſs'd himſelf thus to the People:

I am brought hither to die for the Murther of two Men at Balruddery *about two Years ago, or ſomething more; the Witneſs againſt me was only he who already ſuffer'd, and who to his laſt Breath affirm'd myſelf and the reſt who are hear to ſuffer, are all guilty thereof: Notwithſtanding all which, I do here deſire, That if I am at all guilty thereof, or know any thing of the ſaid Murther, any more than the Child unborn, as many Legions of Devils, as here are ſingle Spectators upon this Green, may tear my Soul in Pieces.* After which, he was turn'd off, and then quarter'd.

The

The next that was ty'd up was the Poſt-maſter, who was mightily exhorted by ſeveral Miniſters, as well as by the Sheriff, to make an ingenious Confeſſion, and Repent before it was too late: But he conſtantly affirmed his Innocency; and declaring that he was ſo far from being concern'd therein, or knowing any thing thereof, that he never ſo much as ſaw the Carpenter to his knowledge, before he was apprehended, and carried to Priſon; making (to outward appearance) a very godly End. Being quickly after turn'd off, and afterwards quartered, as were all the Men except the Carpenter, who was only hang'd and buried. Whereas the reſt, had their Quarters lying upon the Gallow's Green for ſeveral Days after. The two Women, that is to ſay, the Poſt-maſter's Wife, and the Coachman's Wife, were Condemn'd to be burn'd; and the Materials were brought accordingly: But the Lord-Lieutenant's Lady occaſionally paſſing by to her Houſe at the *Phœnix*, caus'd the Sheriff to ſtop their Execution till ſhe had ſpoken with her Lord, of whom ſhe obtain'd this Mittigation of the Womens Sentence, That they were to be hang'd, inſtead of being burn'd, which was accordingly executed. Both they and all the reſt, even the

Post-boy also, constantly affirming their Innocence therein. Which occasion'd much Discourse and various Conjectures among the People; all agreeing, that what they said, and what the Carpenter said, could not both be right. And that the Men were murther'd is evident enough, being never heard of afterward. And therefore in all Probability these Impenitent Wretches must be guilty.

NAR-

NARRAT. II.

IN the ſecond Year of the Reign of King *James* the Firſt, one *Ann Waters*, a Country-woman, having giving herſelf up to the laſcivious Embraces of a Paramour, tho' ſhe had a Husband of her own, and one that lov'd her too well, unleſs ſhe had been better; in a ſhort time after grew weary of her Husband, becauſe ſhe could not have that ſwing in her Wickedneſs, which ſhe deſired; and therefore ſhe deſigned to take away his Life; which deſign ſhe Communicates to her Paramour; and was by him readily approved; and coming to her Husband's Houſe in the evening, was let in by her, whilſt her Husband was aſleep; and ſo going into his Chamber, they ſtrangled him; which when they had done, they buried him ſecretly under a Dunghil, in the Cow-houſe; and then thought themſelves ſafe, and that all was well: For the next day ſhe goes up and down enquiring for her Husband, and wondering (as People thought) what was become of him; making bitter Lamentation for the loſs of him: By which means ſhe ſo deceived the Eyes of her Neighbours, that (tho'

they knew not what was become of *Waters*, yet) no body ſuſpected any foul play from her in the leaſt. But tho' ſhe could blind the Eyes of Men; yet ſhe might have ſaid as *Hagar* in another caſe, *Thou God ſeeſt me*. And we ſhall ſee Divine Juſtice will quickly overtake her; for not long after, it pleaſed God that one of the Inhabitants of the Town where ſhe dwelt, dream'd that his Neighbour *Waters* was ſtrangled, and buried under the Dunghil in the Cow-houſe: This Dream made ſuch a ſtrong impreſſion upon him, that he communicated it to one of his Neighbours; who conſulting with him, and conſidering how ſtrangely *Waters* was gone, and that none could tell what was become of him, agreed with him to make a ſearch in the Place where he had dreamed of: Which being done, they found the dead Body; at which his Wife was ſo ſurprized, that ſhe confeſſed the Fact, and thereupon was carried to Priſon till the Aſſizes; where continuing to confeſs the Fact, ſhe received Sentence of Death, and was burned accordingly, as ſhe deſerved.

NAR

NARRAT. III.

IN the Year 1656, one Mr. *Hambleton*, a wealthy Man, and a great Trader, living in the the City of *Edenborough*, in the Kingdom of *Scotland*, who dealt much with ſeveral Merchants and Shopkeepers in *London*, and uſually once in three Years us'd to come to *London* to buy Goods, and to make up Accounts with thoſe he dealt withal; reſolved then, according to his wonted manner, to take a Journey to *London* for the Ends aforeſaid, of which he had given notice to his Correſpondents here: It happened that one Lieutenant *Dick*, a Scots-man, was coming up to *London* about the ſame time, and being accquainted with Mr. *Hambleton*, told him, If he pleas'd he would bear him company in his Journey, of which Mr. *Hambleton* was very glad; and told him, That to requite his kindneſs he would bear his Charges upon the Road; with which kind offer the Lieutenant was very well pleas'd, and gave him many thanks: And ſo they came into *England* together as far as *Ware*, which was the laſt place they lay at; the Lieutenant ſeeming very well pleaſed all the way,

and being very good Company. That Night they lay at *Ware*, the Lieutenant was very urgent with Mr. *Hambleton* to riſe very early the next Morning, becauſe, being but twenty Miles from *London*, he had a Mind to ſee his Wife who liv'd at *Weſtminſter*, before ſhe was ſtirring in the Morning; it being then in the midſt of Summer. Mr. *Hambleton*, who was very glad he was ſo near to his Journey's End, told the Lieutenant, That tho' he had no Wife to ſee in *London*, he did not care how ſoon he was there; they both of them appearing very pleaſant and well pleas'd; and ſo they were alſo the next Morning at three of the clock, for ſo ſoon had the Lieutenant call'd up Mr. *Hambleton*, not ſo much to ſee his pretended Wife, as to execute that curſed Deſign againſt the Life of his Friend and Benefactor, which the Devil had put into his head from the beginning of their Journey: For between *Ware* and *London*, near *Theobalds*, the Lieutenant tells Mr. *Hambleton* he could go a nearer way than the common Road, and ſave a Mile or two; by which means, drawing him out of the Road, he barbarouſly Murthered him, firſt ſhooting of him in the Back, and afterwards cutting of his Throat; and then rifling of him, and taking

taking away his Money, Bills, and other things; he gets upon Mr. *Hambleton*'s Horſe, and leaves his own looſe behind him, and ſo goes away as faſt as he could to *London*, leaving the murther'd Body in the Lane; which was ſoon after found out; but none neither knew the Party, nor who had committed the Murther: The news of this horrid Fact, being ſpread abroad, ſeveral Perſons came from all Parts to ſee the Body; and among others the Inn-keeper where they lay the laſt Night; who knew him to be the Perſon that had lain at his Houſe the night before; and alſo, that the Horſe found by him was Lieutenant *Dick*'s Horſe, and not his own that he rid on, who was therefore reaſonably concluded to be the Murtherer: Before the Body was buried, ſome of Mr. *Hambleton*'s Correſpondents, in *London*, having heard of this Murther, and not finding Mr. *Hambleton* come to Town according to his Promiſe, went down to ſee it, and knew it to be the Body of their Friend; and being told where he had lain the Night before his Death, went thither, and got the Oſtler (who knew the Horſe Mr. *Hambleton* rid on) to go with him to *London*, and ſearch the Stables of ſeveral Inns to ſee if they could find him, and by that means the Murtherer;

and Providence directed them so well, that they found the Horse, but knew not where to find the Man, for he did not lodge there: However, having acquainted the Master of Inn therewith, he promis'd to secure him the next time he came, which he also perform'd; and the Lieutenant being apprehended and search'd, several of Mr. *Hambleton*'s Bills and Letters where found about him; by which means being confirm'd that he was the Murtherer, he was try'd, condemn'd and executed for the same; being also afterwards hang'd in Chains near the place where he committed the Murther, as a Warning to deter others from committing the like Crimes.

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NARRAT. IV.

NEar *Lutterworth*, in *Leicestershire*, a Miller upon occasion of a private Grudge that he had taken against a Neighbour of his, murdered him in his Mill, and privately buried him in the ground near the Mill; whereby the Murther was concealed: Some time after which, this Miller removed into another Country, where he continued many years. But it pleased God, for the brighter Manifestation of Divine Justice, so ordered things, that this Miller returned to the Town where he formerly lived, to make a Visit to some Friends of his. And whilst this Miller was thus in that Town, the Miller that had then the Possession of that Mill, had an occasion to dig very deep in that very place where the Carcase of the murder'd Man had formerly been buried; and finding of it there, he communicated it to some of his Neighbours; who consulting together how this come there; it pleased God to put it into their Hearts to call to mind a Neighbour of theirs, who, about twenty Years before, was suddenly missed, and never since heard of; and bethinking themselves who

who was then the Miller to that Mill, they found it was he that was lately come to Town, and who had not been there for many Years before: Upon which, being apprehended and examined, he with little ado confessed the Fact, and was deservedly Executed for the same; as an Instance that 'tis not length of time can ward off the Stroke of Divine Justice.

NAR-

NARRAT. V.

A Maid-ſervant, who lived with a Shop-keeper in *Fleet-ſtreet*, happened to miſlay a Silver-ſpoon, which her Miſtreſs was jealous ſhe had ſtole, and queſtion'd her about it; the Maid abſolutely deny'd it, and told her Miſtreſs, It was only miſlaid, and that it would be found again in a little time; this made her Miſtreſs the more jealous that ſhe had ſtole it, (tho' ſhe had never before miſtruſted her:) And therefore demanded to ſee her Trunk: The Maid affirmed ſhe knew nothing of it, but refus'd to let her Miſtreſs look in the Trunk: Upon this, the Miſtreſs was ſo much the more perſwaded that the Spoon was there, and ſo was reſolved to look in her Trunk, which having opened and ſearched, ſhe found indeed no Spoon, nor nothing that was hers; but was mightily ſurpriz'd to find therein a dead Child, which the Maid had lately been deliver'd of, and had Murther'd; upon the Confeſſion whereof, ſhe was carried to Priſon, and the next Seſſions hanged for the ſame.

NAR-

NARRAT. VI.

Otho Melander, *p.* 128. *Gives us the following Narrative,*

A Certain aged Inn-keeper, of a conſiderable Eſtate, who had only one Child, and that a Daughter, entertained a a ſtrange Man into his Service, who was very poor, but mighty induſtrious; this Man in proceſs of time courted, and at laſt obtain'd the Good-will of his Maſter's Daughter; but being poor, could not obtain her Father's Conſent, tho' otherwiſe his Maſter reſpected him very well. His Maſter not long after, went into the Country to the Baths, taking his Wife and Daughter along with him, and left this Man at home, to look after the Houſe: It happened the firſt night after they were gone, a Merchant and his Horſe came to lodge there; whom the Servant kill'd and buried in the Stable, and then ſold his Horſe and Cloaths, and took all he had, no one knowing of it beſides himſelf. The Maſter returning found all things in the Houſe, according to his own content. Not long after, he ſhews his Maſter a Letter, which

which he pretended to receive from his Friends, which acquainted him that his Father was dead, and that they had lent him Eighty Crowns to furnish him with a Horse and other things for his Journey, to look after that Estate which was left him. He desired leave to go, and tells his Master that he would not buy a Horse, nor carry so much Mony with him, but would leave it with his Master; and said he would rather live in that City than any where else. His Master gives him leave to go; and accordingly he goes, returns again, and feigning things concerning what was left him, he puts the rest of his stolen Money into his Master's hands. His Master by this means was perswaded to gratifie his Daughter's desire, and now gave his Consent for her to marry him: And soon after his Father-in-law died, and left him all his Estate, so that he lived for many years in good repute, and at last arrived to the chief Magistracy in that City. But notwithstanding all this Greatness, being perpetually tormented with the Terror of his own Conscience, he had no pleasure in all his Enjoyments, so that it may be truly said, of all his Enjoyments, he enjoy'd nothing. At last, being one Day sitting with his Brethren, the Magistrates, in Judg-

ment

ment upon a Murderer, and having Condemned him to be beheaded, he aroſe from the Bench, and acquainted his Brethren of his own murdering of the Merchant, and robbing of him ſo many years ago, and deſired they would paſs the ſame Sentence againſt himſelf. The Magiſtrates at firſt ſuppoſed him to be diſtempered with Melancholly; but he replyed, that tho' they judged him innocent, and that as to other groſs Offences he was indeed faultleſs, yet of this he was guilty: And if they would ſend, they ſhould find the Bones of the Merchant buried in the Stable. They thereupon ſent and ſearched, and having found it ſo, paſſed ſentence upon him; who went moſt willingly to his Execution, and was beheaded with the other.

NAR-

NARRAT. VII.

A Young Man that had been three years an Apprentice at *London*, having a new Suit of Cloaths given him by his Friends at that time according to their Contract with his Master, was by Agreement also at three Years end to go down into the Country, and make his Friends a Visit: Which his Master also gave him leave to do. And being a *Northamptonshire* Lad, he took his Journey that way, and had travelled on Foot as far as *Pheny-Stratford*, where he once thought of lying all Night, but having a desire to reach as far as *Stony-Stratford*, he went on further: And being come to a blind Ale-house by a Wood-side, about a mile from *Pheny-Stratford*, and it beginning to rain, he went in thither and call'd for a pot of Drink; and declaring his intention to go that Night to *Stony-Stratford*, the Man of the House dissuaded him from it; and told him he might have a Lodging there that Night, and the next Morning he would go part of the way with him, and bring him a shorter Cut by above a Mile: The young Man was easily perswaded, and lay there all Night. The next Morn-

Morning he gets up betimes. and ſo does his Hoſt likewiſe to be his Conducter: But, alas! he quickly conducted him to his long Home: For leading along ſome Grounds on the back of his Houſe, he ſoon brings him into a Wood on the top of the Hill, within a quarter of a Mile of his Houſe; and there like a barbarous Wretch firſt knocks him down, and then with a Wood-bill which he had in his hand, he cuts off his Head, mangling the Face that it might not be known; and then like a barbarous Villain cuts his Body to pieces, and then leaves it; taking away his Cloaths along with him: Beſides the Cloaths, the Murderer had but a ſmall Booty, finding but two Shillings and Six-pence in his Pockets. The Cloaths he diſpos'd of quickly after, to a Man in a Neighbouring Town; and then imagin'd he was ſafe enough from any diſcovery. But it is an irrevocable Decree of Heaven, *That he that ſheddeth Man's Blood, by Man ſhall his Blood be ſhed:* And this wretched Murtherer ſhall find it to be true. In about a Fortnight's time after the committing of this horrid Murther, a Gentleman not far off, that kept a Pack of Hounds, went out one morning a Hunting, with ſeveral Gentlemen of his Acquaintance who lov'd the Sport; and having

ving ſtarted a Hare, and cours'd her for ſome time, the Hare made up to the fore-mentioned Wood; and tho' ſeveral of the Dogs follow'd her into the Wood, ſhe gave them all the ſlip. But tho' the Hounds loſt the Hare, yet they found the young Man's mangled Carcaſe; and to the Gentlemens great ſurprize, one of them brings one of his Legs in his Mouth. Upon this, beſetting all the Avenues of the Wood, they enter'd into it, and found the mangled Carcaſe: Which they caus'd to be gathered together, and brought out; and the Coroner's Inqueſt was ſummon'd to ſit upon it, who upon View ſoon found it to be a murther'd Body; but none could tell who was the Murderer: This Fellow living ſo near was queſtion'd, and his Houſe ſearch'd, but he deny'd it, and nothing was found from whence they could make any Conjectures. But at length, the Man that had bought the murther'd Perſon's Cloaths of him, hearing of this Murther, thought with himſelf, that thoſe might be the Cloaths of the murthered Perſon; it being much about that time that they were bought; this he acquaints a Juſtice of the Peace withal, and carries him the Cloaths: The Juſtice ſends and apprehends the Murtherer, and queſtions him how

he came by those Cloaths: he tells him that he had 'em made for him, but they were too little for him. The Justice orders him to send for the Taylor that made them, that he might justifie it; which the Man not knowing how to do, and being confounded in his Answers to the Justice's Interrogatories, he Confessed the matter of Fact before related; and was sent to Prison till the following Assizes; and then was try'd and Condemn'd, and afterwards Executed for the same; being also Hang'd in Chains near the side of the Wood where he had committed that bloody Murther, that so all who beheld him might be deter'd from committing so great Wickedness.

NAR-

NARRAT. VIII.

IN the Year of our Lord 1618, there lived a Gentleman at *Perin* in *Cornwal*, who had been bleſs'd with an ample Poſſeſſion, and a fruitful Iſſue; unhappy only in a younger Son; who taking Liberty from his Father's Bounty, joyned with a Crew like himſelf; and being weary of the Land went roving to Sea, in a ſmall Veſſel, and made prize of all whom they could Maſter: And by degrees increaſed in Number and Strength ſo much, that they adventured upon a Turk's Man of War, where they got a great Booty: But their Powder by miſchance taking fire, our Gallant got to ſhore upon the Iſle of *Rhodes* with his beſt jewels about him; and their offering ſome of them to ſale to a Jew, he knew them to be the Governour's of *Algeir*; whereupon he was apprehended, and condemn'd to the Gallies amongſt other Chriſtians; whoſe miſerable Slavery made them uſe means to recover their former Liberty: Which, by watching their oppertunity they valiantly effected; after which our Spark got aboard of an *Engliſh* Ship and came ſafe to *London*; where his former Mi-

ſery, and ſome Skill that he had gotten that way, preferr'd himto be a Servant to a Chyrurgeon; who after a while ſent him to the *East-Indies*; where by his Diligence and Induſtry, he got Mony, with which he returned home.

And now longing to ſee his native Country *Cornwal*, he ſet ſail from *London* in a ſmall Ship Weſtward: But having been fifteen Years abſent, he underſtood that his Father was much decay'd in his Eſtate, and he retir'd himſelf to live privately, in a place not far off, being both in Debt and Danger.

His Siſter he finds married to a Mercer, a meaner Match than her Birth promiſed: To her he at firſt appeared as a poor Stranger; but, after a while, privately reveals himſelf to her, ſhewing her what Jewels and Gold he had concealed in a Bow-caſe about him; and concluded that the next day he intended to viſit his Parents, but would ſtill keep his Diſguiſe, till ſhe and her Husband ſhould come thither, to make their common Joy the more compleat.

Being come to his Parents, his humble Behaviour, ſuitable to his poor Apparel, meſted the old Couple into ſo much Compaſſion, as to give him ſhelter from the cold

Sea-

Seaſon under their outward Roof; and by degrees, the Stories of his Travellings and Sufferings, which he told with much paſſion to the aged People, made him their Gueſt ſo long by the Kitchin-fire, that the old Gentleman bad them good Night, and went to Bed; and ſoon after, his true Stories working Compaſſion in the weaker Veſſel, ſhe wept, and ſo did he; but withal, taking pity of her Tears, he comforted her with a piece of Gold, which gave her aſſurance that he deſerv'd a Lodging; to which ſhe quickly after brought him; and being in Bed, he ſhewed her his Wealth, which was girded about him. And then ſhe took her leave of him.

But ſee how the Devil temps People by the unlawful deſire of Riches: For the old Woman tempted with the golden Bait ſhe had received, and greedily thirſting after the Enjoyment of the reſt, ſhe went to her Husband, and told him what ſhe had ſeen, and how they might become the Maſter of it: The old Gentleman ſtartled at the horridneſs of the Propoſal; but notwithſtanding many Repulſes from him, her pewling Eloquence (like *Eve*'s Enchantments) at laſt prevail'd, and he conſented to do what ſhe would have him, which was, to Cut the Stran-

Stranger's Throat, and seize upon his Riches: Which accordingly they did, as he lay sleeding in the Bed; And then covered the Corps with Cloaths, till oppertunity served for their carrying it away.

The Morning being come, the Sister hastens to her Father's House, where, with a Countenance full of joy, she enquires for a Sailer that came thither last night, and that lodged there: The old Folks at first denyed that they had seen any such Person; she then told them that he was her Brother, her lost Brother, which she knew by a Scar upon his Arm, cut by a Sword in his Youth; and that they had resolved to meet there the next Morning, and to be merry together. His Father hearing this, hastily run up to his Chamber, and finding the Mark his Daughter had told him of, was struck with so horrid a Regret of this monstrous Murther of his own Son, that with the same Knife wherewith he had killed him, he cut his own Throat. The Mother anon after, going up to consult with her Husband, beholding him weltering in his own Blood, wilde and agast, and finding the fatal Instrument of Cruelty at hand, immediately rips up her own Belly, till the Guts tumbled out.

The Daughter wondering that they come not

not down again, goes up Stairs to see for them, and entering that Chamber of Death, and beholding that bloody Scene and Deluge of Destruction, was struck with sudden Grief and Horror, and immediately sunk down and dy'd. And this was the fatal Catastrophe of Covetousness and Murder!

NARRAT. IX.

WIthin a mile of the Burrough of *Leeds*, in the County of *York*, at a place called *Beeſton-Park*, (the Houſe ſtanding alone) lived a Gentleman named Mr. *Leonard Scurr*, who for his Eſtate and Parts was inferiour to few of his Neighbours: He had formerly been a Diſſenting Miniſter; but had left off his Miniſterial Function, and buſied himſelf chiefly in the Managing of ſeveral Coal-Mines which he had upon his Eſtate: His Family conſiſted only of himſelf, his aged Mother, and a Maid-ſervant. And ſome buſineſs requiring his preſence at *London* in *Candlemas* Term, 1679, occaſion'd his getting together what mony he could, in order to his Journey; and the knowledge of this coming to one *Ralph Holdroyd*, a very bad Neighbour of his, and *James Littlewood*, who had ſometimes been Mr. *Scurr*'s Menial Servant, and then work'd in his Coal-pits; the Devil ſtirr'd up theſe two, and ſome others, to become Maſters of this Mony by murthering Mr. *Scurr* and his Family: For which End, they beſet the Houſe the 19th of *January*, 1679, about Eleven a Clock at Night, and

and entering the House, they found Mr. *Scurr*'s Mother in Bed below Stairs, whom they presently seiz'd; she crying out, *Lord have mercy upon me: What do you mean to do with me?* Which Mr. *Scurr* hearing, he came down Stairs immediately, with a Rapier in his hand, with which he defended himself for some time, and wounded two of the Villains (who soon after died) and would have been too hard for the rest, had not the forenamed *James Littlewood* cut off one of his hands with an Axe; notwithstanding which, he still fought them, (being a resolute stout Man, till making a pass, his Rapier bended almost double) till finding their Number over power him, he made up Stairs to a Trap-door, intending to save himself that way; but the Rogues had secur'd that before, knowing it as well as himself; and then knock'd Mr. *Scurr* o'th' Head: Whilst others in the mean time had dispatch'd the old Gentlewoman below. The poor Servant-maid's turn is now next, she begging and intreating them very pitifully to spare her Life; and protested she would be rack'd to Death before she would discover them, intreating them to send her to what remote part of the World they pleas'd, and promising she would never return to divulge their Secrets; telling

ling them her Life could not avail them much in their Designs, she having no Mony, and her Cloaths were not worth much: These Reasons and Intreaties prevailed with the Men; but a Woman being in the Company, reply'd, *That if they spar'd her Life, one time or other she would take away theirs; and therefore the best way was to send her after her Master and Mistress*; and thereupon they immediately dragg'd her to the Threshold of the Door, and there cut off her Head with the before mentioned Murthering-Axe. After this, they fell to rob, pillage, and rifle the House; carrying away what Plate, Mony, and Goods there was therein. And then leaving the murthered Bodies within it, to prevent all Discovery, they set fire to it, and burnt it down to the Ground: The next Morning, the News was soon divulged that Mr. *Scurr*'s House was burnt, himself, his Mother, and Maid, being burnt in it; which caused several Persons to resort thither to view the Ruines, and there they saw Mr. *Scurr*'s half burnt Body lying near his Mother's, his hand being found cut off by the Wrist, and part of the Sleeve with it, the Cuff being on; and the Maid's Body distant from them; and her Head distant from her Body; but all of them burnt very black.

Soon

Soon after this horrid Murder, *Holdroyd* and his Whore, who went by the Name of his Wife, and by whom he had three Children, fled into *Ireland*; where he thought himself then safe enough, and that he was out of the reach of Divine Vengeance; which yet he shall find will quickly overtake him; for talking there of Mr. *Scurr*'s being Murdered, and his Mother and Maid, and how the House was afterwards burnt; and there being then in *Dublin* one *Phebe*, who had formerly been a Servant of Mr. *Scurr*'s, and seeing *Holdroyd*'s reputed Wife wear a Gown and Scarlet Petticoat, which he knew to be Mrs. *Scurr*'s, information was given thereof to the Magistrate, and they were both taken up, and she put into one Prison, and he into another; and he being examined where he was when Mr. *Scurr* was murdered, and his House burnt, said he was thirty Miles distant; but his Whore being asked, she said, he was sick in Bed at home: Upon which Contradictions, being justly suspected of being concerned therein, they were sent over into *England*, and committed Prisoners to *York*-castle, where they found *Littlewood* before them. For a Girl to whom the aforesaid *Ralph Holdroyd* was Father-in-law, being in Bed when

when he came from perpetrating that horrid Villany, he bringing in with him Mony and several Goods, gave them to his Woman; who said, *Lord bless me*, Ralph, *where have you been? I doubt you have been doing something that's ill, which will hang us all. Peace, Fool*, says he, *what we have been doing, no body can tell Tales on; but if I thought this Child was not asleep, I would kill her*; which the Girl hearing, crept lower down in the Bed, and snored; but he came to her, and took her hand up, which she (counterfeiting to Sleep) let fall again of itself: So that he verily believing that she was fast, told his Whore where he and *Littlewood*, and others, had been, and what they had been doing, as is before related; saying, Scurr *was the Devil of a Man; if they had not let him down of an Arm, he would have been too hard for them all.* This she afterwards declared before several Justices of the Peace, and before Judge *Dolben* at the Assizes. Where *Holdroyd* and *Littlewood* were both found guilty of this horrid Murther, and executed for the same; *Holdroyd* dying like an Atheist, denying the Fact to the last; and was afterwards hanged in Chains within half a Mile of *Leeds*: Receiving the just Reward of his Villany.

NAR-

NARRAT. X.

THe following Narration, tho' it be something long, will not, I am confident, be unacceptable to the Reader, it being one of the strangest things that ever was made publick, and yet not more strange than true: For the thing is notoriously known at *Campden* in *Glocestershire*. Otherwise it would exceed all belief, That a Man should accuse himself, his own Mother, and his own Brother for murdering of his Master, and yet it was so far false, that the Man was never murdered at all. But I will not foreſtal the Reader, but leave him to the Narration itself.

Upon *Thursday* the 16th of *August* 1660, Mr. *William Harrison*, Steward to the Lady Viscountess *Campden*, at *Campden* in *Glocestershire*, being about Seventy Years of Age, walked from *Campden* aforesaid to *Charringworth*, about two Miles from thence, to receive his Lady's Rents; and not returning so early as formerly, his Wife (between Eight and Nine of the Clock that Evening) sent her Servant *John Perry* to meet his Master on the way from *Charringworth*; but nei-

neither Mr. *Harriſon* nor his Servant *John Perry* returning that night; the next morning early *Edward Harriſon* (*William*'s Son) went towords *Charringworth* to enquire after his Father; when on the way meeting *Perry* coming thence, and being informed by him he was not there, they went together to *Ebrington*, a Village between *Charringworth* and *Campden*, where they were told by one *Daniel*, that Mr. *Harriſon* call'd at his Houſe the Evening before, in his return from *Charringworth*, but ſtaid not. Then they went to *Paxford*, about half a Mile thence, where hearing nothing of Mr. *Harriſon* they returned towards *Campden*; and on the way, hearing of a Hat, a Band, and Comb, taking up in the High-way, between *Ebrington* and *Campden*, by a poor Woman then Leaſing in the Field, they ſought her out; with whom they found the Hat, Band, and Comb, which they knew to be Mr. *Harriſon*'s; and being brought by the Woman to the place where ſhe found them, in the High-way between *Ebrington* and *Campden*, near unto a great Furz-brake, they there ſearch for Mr. *Harriſon*, ſuppoſing he had been murthered; the Hat and Comb being hack'd and cut, and the Band bloody; but nothing more could be there found

found. The News hereof coming to *Campden* ſo alarm'd the Town, that Men, Women and Children haſted out in Multitudes, to ſearch for Mr. *Harriſon*'s ſuppoſed dead Body, but all in vain.

Mrs. *Harriſon*'s fears for her Husband being great, were now much encreaſed: And becauſe ſhe had ſent her Servant *Perry* the Evening before, to meet his Maſter, and he not returning that night, it cauſed a Suſpition that he had robb'd and murthered him; and thereupon the ſaid *Perry* was the next day brought before a Juſtice of Peace; by whom being examined both concerning his Maſter's abſence, and his own ſtaying out the Night he went to meet him, he gave this Account of himſelf: That his Miſtreſs ſending him to meet his Maſter between eight and nine of the clock in the Evening, he went down *Campden-field* towards *Charringworth*, about a Land's Length, where meeting one *William Reed* of *Campden*, he acquainted him with his Errand; and further told him, that it growing dark, he was afraid to go forwards, and would therefore return and fetch his young Maſter's Horſe; and return with him he did, to Mr. *Harriſons* Court-gate, where they parted, and he ſtay'd ſtill; and then one *Pence* coming by,

by, he went again with him about a Bow's ſhot into the Fields, and returned with him likewiſe to his Maſter's Gate, where they alſo parted; and then the ſaid *John Perry* ſaith, he went into his Maſter's Hen-rooſt, where he lay about an hour, but ſlept not; and when the Clock ſtruck twelve, roſe and went towards *Charringworth*, till (a great Miſt ariſing) he loſt his way, and ſo lay the reſt of the Night under a Hedge; and at Break of Day on *Friday*-morning, he went to *Charringworth*, where he enquired for his Maſter of one *Edward Plaiſterer*, who told him he had been with him the Afternoon before, and received twenty three Pounds of him; but ſtayed not long with him. He then went to *William Curtis* of the ſame Town, who likewiſe told him, he heard his Maſter was at his Houſe the day before, but being not at home, he did not ſee him; after which he ſaith he returned homewards, it being about five of the clock in the Morning, when on the way, he met his Maſter's Son, with whom he went to *Ebrington* and *Packsford*, &c. as hath been before related.

Reed, *Pierce*, *Plaiſterer*, and *Curtis*, being examined, affirm'd what *Perry* had ſaid concerning them to be true.

Perry

Perry being then ask'd by the Justice of Peace, how he who was afraid to go to *Charringworth* at nine a clock, became so bold as to go thither at twelve? Answered, That at nine of the clock it was dark, but at twelve, the Moon shone.

Being further ask'd, why returning twice home, after his Mistress had sent him to meet his Master, and staying till twelve of the clock, he went not into the House to know whether his Master were not come home, before he went a third time, at that time of Night to look after him? Answered, That he knew his Master was not come home, because he saw light in his Chamber-window, which never used to be there so late, when he was at home.

Yet notwithstanding this, that *Perry* had said for his staying forth that Night, it was not thought fit to discharge him, till further Enquiry were made after Mr. *Harrison*; and accordingly he continued in Custody at *Campden*, sometimes in an Inn there, and sometimes in the common Prison, from *Saturday*, *August* the 18th, unto the *Friday* following; during which time, he was again examin'd at *Campden* by the aforesaid Justice of Peace; but confessed nothing more than before; nor at that time could any further

discovery be made what was become of Mr. *Harrison*: But it hath been said, That during his restraint at *Campden*, he told some (who prest him to confess what he knew concerning his Master,) That a Tinker had kill'd him; and to others he said, a Gentleman's Servant of the Neighbourhood had robb'd and murder'd him; and to others again, he told, That he was murder'd and hid in a Bean-rick; where search was in vain made for him. At length he gave out, That were he again carried before the Justice, he would discover that to him, he would not discover to any body else: And thereupon, on *Friday* the 24th of *August*, he was again brought before the Justice of Peace who first examined him, and asking him, Whether he would yet confess what was become of his Master? He answered, *He was murdered, but not by him*: The Justice of Peace telling him, that if he knew him to be murder'd, he knew likewise by whom he was so; he acknowledged he did; and being urged to confess what he knew concerning it, he affirm'd, that it was his Mother and his Brother that had murdered his Master. The Justice of Peace then advised him to consider what he said, telling him that he feared he might be guilty of his Master's Death;

Death; and that he ſhould not draw more innocent Blood upon his Head; for what he now charged his Mother and Brother with, might coſt them their lives: But he affirming that he ſpoke nothing but the Truth; and that if he were immediately to dye, he would juſtifie it; The Juſtice deſired him to declare how and when they did it.

He then told him, that his Mother and his Brother had lain at him ever ſince he came into his Maſter's Service, to help them to Mony, telling him how poor they were; and that it was in his power to relieve them, by giving them notice when his Maſter went to receive his Lady's Rents, for they would then Way-lay and Robb him; and further ſaid, That upon the *Thurſday*-morning his Maſter went to *Charringworth*, he going of an Errand into the Town, met his Brother in the Street, whom he then told whither his Maſter was going; and that if he Way-laid him, he might have his Mony: And further ſaid, That in the Evening when his Miſtreſs ſent him to meet his Maſter, he met his Brother in the Street, before his Maſter's Gate, going (as he ſaid) to meet his Maſter, and ſo they went together to the Church-yard, about a ſtone's throw from

Mr. *Harriſon*'s Gate, where they parted; he going the Foot-way croſs the Church-yard, and his Brother keeping the great Road round the Church; but in the High-way beyond the Church, they met again, and ſo went together the way leading to *Charringworth*, till they came to a Gate about a Bow's ſhot from *Campden*'s Church, that goes into a Ground of the Lady *Campden*'s, called the *Conygree* (which to thoſe that have a Key to go through the Garden is the next way from that place to Mr. *Harriſon*'s Houſe;) when they came near unto the Gate, he the ſaid *John Perry* ſaith he told his Brother he did believe his Maſter was juſt gone into the *Conygree*, (for it was then ſo dark, they could not diſcern any Man, ſo as to know him) but perceiving one to go into that Ground, and knowing there was no way (but for thoſe who had a Key) through the Gardens, he concluded it was his Maſter; and ſo told his Brother, if he follow'd him he might have his Mony; and he in the mean time would walk a turn in in the Fields, which accordingly he did; and then following his Brother about the middle of the *Conygree*, found his Maſter on the ground, his Brother upon him, and his Mother ſtanding by. And being ask'd, whether his Maſter where

then

then dead, answered, No; for that after he came to them, his Master cry'd, *Ah Rogues! Will you kill me?* At which he told his Brother, he hop'd he would not kill his Master; who replyed, *Peace, peace; you're a Fool*; and so strangled him; which having done, he took a bag of Mony out of his Pocket, and threw it into his Mother's lap; and then he and his Brother carried his Master's dead Body into the Garden adjoyning to the *Conygree*, where they consulted what to do with it, and at length agreed to throw it into the great Sink by *Wallington*'s Mill, behind the Garden; but said his Mother and Brother bad him go up to the Court next the House, to hearken whether any one were stirring, and they would throw the Body into the Sink: And being ask'd, whether it was there, he said he knew not, for that he left it in the Garden; but his Mother and Brother said they would throw it there; and if it were not there, he knew not where it was, for that he returned no more to them, but went into the Court-gate which goes into the Town, where he met with *John Pierce*, with whom he went into the Field, and again returned with him to his Master's Gate; after which he went into the Hen-roost, where he lay till twelve of

the Clock that Night, but slept not: And having, (when he came from his Mother and Brother) brought with him his Master's Hat, Band, and Comb, which he had laid in the Hen-roost, he carried the said Hat, Band, and Comb, and threw them (after he had given them three or four Cuts with his Knife) in the High-way, where they were after found: And being ask'd, what he intended by so doing? Said, He did it that it might be believ'd his Master had been there robb'd and murder'd: And having thus disposed of his Hat, Band, and Comb, he went towards *Charringworth*, &c. as has been related.

Upon this Confession and Accusation, the Justice of Peace gave order for the apprehending of *Joan* and *Richard Perry*, the Mother and Brother of *John Perry*; and for searching the Sink where Mr. *Harrison*'s Body was said to be thrown; which was accordingly done, but nothing of him could be there found: The Fish-pools likewise in *Campden* were drawn and search'd, but nothing could be there found within; so that some were of Opinion the Body might be hid in the Ruins of *Campden*-house, burnt in the late Wars, and not unfit for such a Concealment, where likewise search was made, but all in vain. *Sa-*

Saturday, Aug. 25th, *Joan* and *Richard Perry* (together with *John Perry*) were brought before the Justice of Peace, who acquainting the said *Joan* and *Richard* with what *John* had laid to their Charge; they denied all, with many Imprecations on themselves, if they were in the least guilty of any thing of which they were accused: But *John*, on the other side, affirmed to their Faces, that he had spoken nothing but the Truth; and that they had murdered his Master: Further telling them, That he could never be at quiet for them, since he came into his Master's Service, being continually follow'd by them, to help them to Mony; which they told him he might do, by giving them notice when his Master went to receive his Lady's Rents; and that he meeting his Brother *Richard* in *Campden*-Town, the *Thursday*-morning his Master went to *Charringworth*, told him whither he was going, and upon what Errand: *Richard* confessed he met his Brother that Morning, and spoke with him; but nothing pass'd between them to that purpose: And both he and his Mother, told *John* he was a Villain, to accuse them wrongfully as he had done. But *John* on the other side affirmed, That he had spoken nothing but the Truth, and he would justifie it to his Death.

One remarkable Circumstance happened in these Prisoners return from the Justice of Peace his House to *Campden*, [viz. *Richard Perry*, (following a good distance behind his Brother *John*) pulling a Clout out of his Pocket, dropt a Ball of Inkle; which one of his Guard taking up, he desired him to restore, saying, It was only his Wife's Hair-lace; but the Party opening of it, and finding a slip-knot at the end, went and shewed it unto *John*, who was then a good distance before, and knew nothing of the dropping and taking up of this Inkle; but being shewed it, and ask'd whether he knew it; shook his Head, and said, Yea, to his sorrow, for that was the String his Brother strangled his Master with. This was Sworn upon the Evidence at their Tryal.

The morrow, being the Lord's Day, they remained at *Campden*, where the Minister of the place designing to speak to them (if possible to perswade them to Repentance, and a farther Confession) they were brought to Church; and in their way thither, passing by *Richard*'s House, two of his Children meeting him, he took the lesser in his Arms, leading the other in his hand; when on a sudden, both their Noses fell a bleeding, which was look'd upon as Ominous.

Here

Here it will be no impertinent Digreſſion to acquaint the Reader, That the Year before Mr. *Harriſon* had his Houſe broke open between Eleven and Twelve of the Clock at Noon, upon *Campden* Market-day, whilſt himſelf, and his whole Family were at the Lecture, a Ladder being ſet up to a Window of the ſecond Story, and an Iron-bar wrench'd thence with a Ploughſhare, which was left in the Room, and ſevenſcore Pounds in Money carried away, the Authors of which Robbery could never be found.

After this, and not many Weeks before Mr. *Harriſon*'s abſence, his Servant *Perry* one Evening, in *Campden*-Garden, made an hideous Out-cry; whereat ſome who heard it, met him running, and ſeemingly affrighted, with a Sheep-pick in his hand; to whom he told a formal Story, how he had been ſet upon by two Men in white, with naked Swords, and how he defended himſelf with his Sheep-pick; the handle whereof was cut in two or three places, and likewiſe a Key in his Pocket, which he ſaid was done with one of their Swords.

Theſe Paſſages the Juſtice of Peace having before heard, and calling to mind upon *Perry*'s Confeſſion, ask'd him concerning the Rob-

Robbery, when his Master lost sevenscore Pounds out of his House at Noon-day, whether he knew who did it? Who answered, Yes, it was his Brother. And being further ask'd, whether he were then with him? He swered, No, he was then at Church; but that he gave him notice of the Mony, and told him in which Room it was, and where he might have a Ladder that would reach the Window; and that his Brother after told him he had the Mony, and had buried it in his Garden, and they were at *Michaelmas* next to have divided it. Whereupon search was made it the Garden, but no Mony could be there found.

And being further ask'd concerning that other Passage, of his being assaulted in the Garden, he confest it was all a Fiction; and that having a design to Rob his Master, he did it that Rogues might be believed to haunt the place, that so when his Master was robb'd, they might be thought to have done it.

At the next Assizes, which were held in *September* following, *John*, *Joan* and *Richard Perry* had two Indictments found against them, one for breaking into *William Harrison*'s House, and robbing him of an hundred and forty Pound, in the Year 1659. The other

other, for robbing and murthering the ſaid *William Harriſon* the 16th Day of *Auguſt*, 1660. Upon the laſt Indictment the then Judge of Aſſizes, Sir *C. T.* refuſed to try them, becauſe the Body was not found. But they were then try'd upon the other Indictment for Robbery, to which they pleaded, Not Guilty; but ſome whiſpering behind them, they ſoon after pleaded Guilty, humbly begging the Benefit of His Majeſty's Gracious Pardon, and Act of Oblivion, which was granted them.

But tho' they pleaded Guilty to this Indictment, being thereunto prompted by ſome who were unwilling to loſe time, and trouble the Court with their Tryal, in regard the Act of Oblivion pardoned them; yet they all afterwards, and at their Deaths, denied that they were guilty of that Robery, or that they knew who did it.

Yet at this Aſſize, *John Perry* ſtill perſiſted in his Story, that his Mother and Brother had murdered his Maſter; and further added, That they had attempted to Poyſon him in the Goal, ſo that he durſt not Eat nor Drink with them.

At the next Aſſizes, which were the Spring following, *John*, *Joan* and *Richard Perry*, were Tryed by Sir *B. H.* the then Judge of the Aſſize,

Assize, upon an Indictment of Murther, and pleaded thereunto severally, Not Guilty; and when *John*'s Confession before the Justice, was proved, *Viva voce*, by several Witnesses who heard the same, he told them he was then Mad, and knew not what he said.

The other two, *Richard* and *Joan Perry*, said they were wholly Innocent of what they were accused; and that they knew nothing of Mr. *Harrison*'s Death, nor what was become of him. And *Richard* said, That his Brother had accused others as well as him, to have murdered his Master. The Judge bidding him prove it; he said, That most of those that had given Evidence against him, knew it; but naming none, not any one spoke to it; and so the Jury found them all three Guilty.

Some few Days after, being brought to the place of their Execution, which was on *Broadway-hill*, in sight of *Campden*, the Mother (who was then said to be a Witch, and to have so bewitched her Sons, that they could confess nothing while she lived) was first Executed, professing her Innocency to the last. After which, *Richard*, being upon the Ladder, professed, as he had done all along, That he was wholly Innocent of the Fact for which

which he was then to die, and that he knew nothing of Mr. *Harrison*'s Death, nor what was become of him; and did with great Earnestness beg and beseech his Brother, (for the Satisfaction of the whole World, and of his own Conscience) to declare what he knew concerning him; but he, with a dogged and surly Carriage, told the People, he was not obliged to confess to them; yet immediately before his Death, said, He knew nothing of his Master's Death, nor what was become of him; but they were all three Executed; *John Perry* being hang'd in Chains.

After Execution thus done upon these poor supposed Criminals, it cannot but cause Admiration, as well as Compassion in the Reader, when he shall understand, That somewhat above two Years after Mr. *Harrison*'s supposed Murder, he came again to *Campden* alive and well, which is a sufficient Confutation of all *John Perry*'s formal Confession, and Accusation of his innocent Mother and Brother; tho' that Tale seems to be so well told; and tho' the Circumstance of *Richard*'s dropping the Inkle, and what *John* said of it, seems to confirm it: For if Mr. *Harrison* was not Strangled, then was not that Inkle employ'd to that purpose.

Tho'

Tho' what ſhould make *John Perry* ſo unnaturally and barbarouſly to accuſe his own Mother and his own Brother of a Robbery and Murther of which they were altogether Innocent, (for Mr. *Harriſon* upon his Return poſitively affirm'd he ſaw neither his Servant, nor his Mother nor Brother, that Night) and this too, at the Expence of his own Life, bringing himſelf as Acceſſary, muſt remain a Secret till that Day which ſhall bring to light all the hidden Works of Darkneſs. Tho' for my own part, I cannot but conclude, That *John* was under either ſome ſtrong Delirium, or Faſcination.

But I fancy the Reader will be very deſirous to know what became of Mr. *Harriſon* all that time, and by what means he came to be miſſing; as to which, I ſhall gratifie the Reader's Curioſity with Mr. *Harriſon*'s own Relation, ſent by him in a Letter to Sir *Thomas Overbury*, Knight, of *Burton*, in the County of *Glouceſter*, and alſo a Juſtice of Peace. Which take as follows:

For

For Sir *T. O.* Knight.

Honoured Sir,

IN obedience to your Commands, I give you this true Account of my being carried away beyond the Seas, my Continuance there, and Return home,

On a Thursday, *in the Afternoon, in the time of Harvest, I went to* Charringworth, *to demand Rents due to my Lady* Campden; *at which time the Tennants were busie in the Field, and late before they came home, which occasioned my stay there, till the close of the Evening. I expected a considerable Sum, but received only three and twenty Pounds, and no more. In my return home, (in the narrow Passage, amongst* Ebrinton *Furzes) there met me one Horseman, and said,* Art thou there? *And I fearing he would have rid over me, struck his Horse o'er the Nose; whereupon he struck at me with his Sword, several blows, and run it into my side; while I (with my little Cane) made my Defence as well as I could; at last another came behind me, run me into the Thigh, laid hold on the Coller of my Doublet, and drew me to a Hedge near to the place; then came in another: They did not take my Mony, but mounted me behind one of them, drew my*

Arms

Tho' what should make *John Perry* so unnaturally and barbarously to accuse his own Mother and his own Brother of a Robbery and Murther of which they were altogether Innocent, (for Mr. *Harrison* upon his Return positively affirm'd he saw neither his Servant, nor his Mother nor Brother, that Night) and this too, at the Expence of his own Life, bringing himself as Accessary, must remain a Secret till that Day which shall bring to light all the hidden Works of Darkness. Tho' for my own part, I cannot but conclude, That *John* was under either some strong Delirium, or Fascination.

But I fancy the Reader will be very desirous to know what became of Mr. *Harrison* all that time, and by what means he came to be missing; as to which, I shall gratifie the Reader's Curiosity with Mr. *Harrison*'s own Relation, sent by him in a Letter to Sir *Thomas Overbury*, Knight, of *Burton*, in the County of *Glouceſter*, and also a Justice of Peace. Which take as follows:

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Arms

Arms about his middle, and fastened my Wrists together with something that had a Spring-lock to it, as I conceived, by hearing it give a snap when they put it on; then they threw a great Cloak over me, and carried me away. In the Night, they alighted at a Hay-rick, which stood near unto a Stone-pit, by a Wall-side, where they took away my Mony: About two hours before Day, (as I heard one of them tell the other, he thought it to be then) they tumbled me into the Stone-pit; they staid (as I thought) about an hour at the Hay-rick; when they took Horse again, one of them bid me come out of the Pit; I answered, They had my Mony already; and asked what they would do with me? Whereupon he struck me again, drew me out, and put a great quantity of Mony into my Pockets, and mounted me again after the same manner; and on the Friday, *about Sun-setting, they brought me to a lone House, upon a Heath, (by a Thicket of Bushes) where they took me down almost dead, being sorely bruised with the Carriage of the Money: When the Woman of the House saw that I could neither stand nor speak, she asked them, whether or no they had brought a dead Man? they answered, No; but a Friend that was hurt, and they were carrying him to a Chyrurgian; she aswered, If they did not make hast, their Friend would be dead before they could*

bring

bring him to one. There they laid me on Cushions, and suffered none to come into the Room, but a little Girl: There we staid all Night, they giving me some Broth and Strong-waters. In the Morning, very early, they mounted me, as before, and on Saturday-night, they brought me to a place where were two or three Houses, in one of which I lay all Night on Cushions, by their Bed-side: On Saturday-morning, they carried me from thence, and about three or four a Clock, they brought me to a place by the Sea-side, called Deal, where they laid me down on the Ground; and one of them staying by me, the other two walked a little off, to meet a Man, with whom they talked, and in their Discourse I heard them mention seven Pounds; after which, they went away together, and about half an hour after return'd. The Man (whose Name, as I after heard, was Wrenshaw) said, he feared I would dye, before he could get me on Board. Then presently they put me into a Boat, and carried me on Ship-board, where my Wounds were dress'd. I remained in the Ship (as near as I can reckon) about six Weeks; in which time I was indifferently recovered of my Wounds and Weakness. Then the Master of the Ship came and told me (and the rest who were in the same condition) that he discovered three Turkish Ships; we all offered to fight in Defence of the Ship and

ourselves; but he commanded us to keep close, and said he would deal with them well enough. A little while after we were called up, and when we came on the Deck, we saw two Turkish Ships close by us; into one of them we were put, and placed in a dark hole; where how long we continued before we were landed, I know not: When we were landed, they led us two Days Journey, and put us into a great House or Prison, where we remained four Days and a half: And then came to us eight Men to view us, who seemed to be Officers; they called us, and examined us of our Trades and Callings, which every one answered: One said, he was a Chyrurgion; another, that he was a Broad-cloath-weaver; and I, (after two or three demands) said I had some Skill in Physick: We three were set by, and taken by three of those eight Men that came to view us: It was my chance to be chosen by a grave Physician of Eighty seven Years of Age, who lived near to Smirna, *who had formerly been in* England; *and knew* Crowland *in* Lincolnshire, *which he preferred before all other places in* England: *He employed me to keep his Still-house, and gave me a Silver Bowl double gilt, to drink in; my business was most in that place; but once he set me to gather Cotten-wool, which I not doing to his Mind, he struck me down to the Ground; and after drew his Stiletto, to Stab me;*

but

but I holding up my hands to him, he gave a Stamp, and turned from me; for which I render thanks to my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who stayed his hand, and preserved me. I was there about a Year and three Quarters, and then my Master fell sick on a Thursday, and sent for me; and calling me as he used, by the Name of Bell, told me he should dye, and bid me shift for myself: He died on Saturday following, and I presently hastened with my Bowl to a Port almost a Day's journy distant; the way to which place I knew, having been twice there employ'd by my Master, about the carriage of his Cotten-wool: When I came thither, I addressed myself to two Men, who came out of a Ship belonging to Hamberough, which (as they said) was bound for Portugal within three or four Days. I enquired of them for an English Ship; they answered, There was none; I entreated them to take me into their Ship; they answered, They durst not, for fear of being discovered by the Searchers; which might occasion the Forfeiture, not only of their Goods, but also of their Lives: I was very importunate with them, but could not prevail: They left me to wait on Providence, which at length brought another out of the same Ship, to whom I made known my Condition, craving his Assistance for my Transportation: He made me the like Answer as the former, and was

as ſtiff in his denial, till the ſight of my Bowl put him to a pauſe: He returned to the Ship, and after half an hour's ſpace he came back again, accompanied with a nother Sea-man; and for my Bowl undertook to Tranſport me; but told me, I muſt be contneted to lye down in the Keel, and endure much Hardſhip; which I was content to do, to gain my Liberty; ſo they took me aboard, and placed me below in the Veſſel, in a very uneaſie place, and hid me with Boards and other things; ſo that I lay undiſcover'd, notwithſtanding the ſtrict Search that was made in the Veſſel: My two Chapmen, who had my Bowl, honeſtly furniſh'd me with Victuals daily, until we arriv'd at Lisbon in Portugal; where (as ſoon as the Maſter had left the Ship; and was gone into the City) they ſet me on Shoar moneyleſs, to ſhift for myſelf. I knew not what courſe to take, but as Providence led me, I went up into the City, and came into a fair Street; and being weary, I turn'd my Back to a Wall, and leaned upon my Staff: Over-againſt me were four Gentlemen diſcourſing together; after a while, one of them came to me, and ſpake to me in a Language that I underſtood not: I told him I was an Engliſh Man, and underſtood not what he ſaid: He then ſpake to me in Engliſh, and told me, that he was an Engliſh Man himſelf, and born near Wisbich in Lincolnſhire. Then I related to him how I had

had been carried away, and my present sad Condition; upon which, taking Compassion on me, he took me along with him, and provided for me Lodging and Dyet; and by his Interest with the Master of a Ship, bound for England, procured my Passage; and bringing me on Shipboard furnished me both with Wine and strong Waters, and at his departure gave me some Mony, commending me to the care of the Master of the Ship, who landed me safe at Dover; from whence I made shift to get to London, where being furnished with Necessaries, I came into the Country. Where being kindly and joyfully received by my Wife and Family, as one risen from the Dead; I was soon told of the unhappy Fate of my Servant Perty, and his Mother and Brother: What caus'd John so falsely to accuse them and himself, I know not: He has not only brought his Blood upon his own Head, but that also of his Innocet Mother and Brother: For I never saw either of them that Evening; nor do I know who they were that carried me away after that rude and barbarous manner; nor for what reason they did it, I having, to my knowledge, never seen them before in my Life.

Thus, Honoured Sir, I have given you a true Account of my great Sufferings, and happy Deliverance, by the Mercy and Goodness of God, my most gracious Father in Jesus Christ, my

Saviour and Redeemer; to whose Name be ascribed all Honour, Praise, and Glory. I conclud, and rest,

Your Worship's in all

Dutiful Respects,

William Harrison.

Thus, Reader, thou seest this whole Narration is strange and misterious; Mr. *Harrison*'s Seisure and Transportation by Persons unknown to him, without any Cause, being as unaccountable as *John Perry*'s accusing himself, his Mother, and his Brother, of what they never did. Of neither of which being able to give any account, we must leave it to the last Discovering-d[ay].

NAR-

NARRAT. XI.

A Gentleman riding into the Country overtakes two Men driving a Flock of Sheep before them; ſome of which Sheep being turn'd down a narrow Lane, the Gentleman's way lay thorow that Lane which ſome of the Sheep had turn'd down; the Sheep-drivers call aloud to the Gentleman to ſtop, and let the Sheep paſs by him; but the Gentleman ſeeing the Sheep going forward, never minds the Sheep-drivers, nor the Sheep, but proſecutes his Journey; the Lane being very long and narrow, and the Gentleman's being behind 'em a Horſe-back, and ſtill driving the Sheep forward, which in that place he could not well avoid; the two Sheep-drivers call ſome Country-men to their aſſiſtance, and tell them a Gentleman had ſtollen ſeveral of their Sheep, and was driving them down ſuch a Lane, the Country-men run to the Sheep-drivers aſſiſtance, and ſee the Gentleman driving the Sheep before him, and call to him to ſtop; which he refuſing, the Country-men getting ſome before and ſome behind, ſeize upon the Gentleman, having him before a Juſtice of Peace,

laying Felony to his charge, and the Sheep-drivers swear the Gentleman had stole and drove away several of their Sheep; the Gentleman alledges, he never thought of stealing their Sheep, or driving them away, but that it was purely accidental; However, they having sworn positively against him, the Justice commands him to Prison; there he makes Friends, and gives good Security to answer it at the Sessions; and so goes out upon Bail, threatning what he would do to the Sheep-drivers and Country-men that apprehended him. The Assizes being come, and this Tryal coming on, the Sheep-drivers swear positively against him, That he had stole and drove away several of their Sheep; the Gentleman declares the truth of the matter, that it was an accidential thing, as before related. The Judge was the famous and worthy Lord Chief Justice *Hale*, who told the Jury, That to him it was Evident, the Gentleman had no design nor intention to steal the Mens Sheep; but that the thing appear'd to be purely accidental; and that the Prosecution was Malitious. The Jury notwithstanding bring the Gentleman in Guilty of Felony; at which the Judge was very much displeas'd, and tells 'em they could not possibly find him Guilty, there being no-

nothing in it but a malitious Profecution, he being (as he ſaid) very ſure the Gentleman had no deſign to ſteal their Sheep; and that it appear'd he was proſecuting his Journy to ſuch a place, as was evidenc'd in Court, and that his way lay thorow that Lane; and that the Sheep being in it before, he could not help driving them before him to the End of the Lane. And that they could not believe that a Gentleman of his Eſtate, and of that Worth and Reputation, he was of, and was ſo well known to be of, by all the County, could ever deſign the ſtealing of them Sheep, *&c.* And therefore bid them go out again, and conſult together. They do ſo, and in half an hour's time after, come in again, and confirm their former Verdict, bringing in the Defendent Guilty. The Judge was highly ſurpriz'd hereat, and asks, if they were all agreed, and what was their Reaſon: They anſwer'd, They did every one of 'em believe him to be Guilty, and could bring in no other Verdict. The Judge then told the Gentleman, That tho' it did not appear to him he was Guilty, yet the Jury having found him ſo, he could not help it; telling him he would have him ſearch his own Heart, and examine what Sins he had been guilty of before; for he did believe

there

there was something more than ordinary in it, that God should incline the Hearts of all the Jury to find him Guilty; and that perhaps God design'd to punish some former Sin, by the present Verdict. The Gentleman hereupon bursts out into Tears, and clapping his hand upon his Breast, declar'd to the Judge, That tho' he never design'd to steal those Sheep that run before him; yet he had committed a Murder several Years ago, which he believ'd God now design'd to punish him for: And so declar'd the time and Circumstances of it; which was thus: That being an Upholster by his Trade, and working Journey-work with such a Person in *Cornhil* (whom he named) he held unlawful Familiarity with his Mistress, frequently lying with her: And that they might Enjoy one another more freely, and with less hazard, his Mistress and he contrived together to murder her Husband; which they effected by Smothering and Strangling of him when he was asleep; which they did so privately, that then they were never Suspected; none being privy to it but themselves; and that in some convenient time after, they were married together; after which, hearing of a good Estate to be sold in this County, they sold off all their Effects

in

in *London*, (his Wife being left by the Deceased very rich) and with that mony purchased the Estate they now enjoy; upon which for several Years they have lived with so much Reputation in the Country; that he declared he did believe (as his Lordship had said) that nothing but the Hand of God against him, for his former Adultery and Murder, could have inclined the Jury to bring him in Guilty of this Crime of which he was now Convicted, which he neither did, nor intended to commit. The Worthy Lord Chief Justice, and the whole Court, could not but admire at the wonderful Works of God, and the secret Influences of his Spirit upon the Hearts of the Jury, in enclining 'em unanimously to persist in a Verdict so contrary to outward appearance, that thereby so great and long-concealed Wickedness might be brought to light. Whereupon the Judge gave order for the immediate apprehending of the Gentleman's Wife, who with him was Try'd and Convicted of the said Murther, he being sentenced to be hang'd, and she to be burn'd, which was executed accordingly.

NAR-

NARRAT. XII.

IN the Reign of our famous Queen *Elizabeth*, there dwelt an ancient Couple (the youngest of them being seventy Years of Age) in *Honey-lane* near *Cheap-side*, who lived privately, having yearly Means coming in, without any Servants; being judged by the Neighbours to be very rich. This being heard and taken notice of by some Villains, they procured a false Key to their House, and entering at midnight murthered the two old People, while asleep in their Beds, and then broke open their Chests, and carried away what they could, making fast the doors after them. The next day, neither of them being seen by the Neighbours as they us'd to be, they began a little to suspect; but the second day, when they found the Doors continue shut, and heard no noise in the House, they knock'd very hard at the Door, and receiving no Answer, they sent for an Officer, who broke open the Door, and found the old Man and his Wife miserably murthered, and the House robb'd. Upon which great Search was made for the Murtherers, and many taken up on suspition,

but

but nothing could be prov'd againſt them; at length a poor Vagabond Wretch was ſeized on, who not being able to give any good account of himſelf, and being obſerved to haunt there abouts for three or four Days before this Murther was committed, was upon thoſe Preſumptions ſent to *Newgate*, and at the Seſſions arraigned, and for want of making a diſcreet Defence, Condemned and Executed. But the real Malefactor, after this horrid Fact went beyond Sea, and ſet up a Trade in the *Low-Countries*, getting a great deal of Monies; ſo that he grew very conſiderable in the place where he liv'd, but after about twelve Years continuance there, being grown out of knowledge in his own Country, he could not reſt, nor be at quiet, but he muſt needs viſit *England*; and came hither for no other buſineſs but to ſee *London*, and buy a piece of Plate in *Cheapſide* to carry over with him. Being come to *London*, he goes to a Goldſmith's near the Standard in *Cheap-ſide*, and there cheapens a Bowl; and whilſt he was bargaining, it happened that a Gentleman was arreſted juſt over againſt *Bow-Church*, who drawing his Sword, run up *Cheap-ſide*, the Serjeants and People crying, *Stop him, ſtop him:* All looking that way, and the Murderer not knowing the

the cause of the Tumult, thought they look-ed at him, and that he was discovered, and so begins to run away; the People seeing him run, ran after him, and stopt him, ask-ing him the cause of his Flight? He being in a great affright, and terror of Conscience, answered, *He was the Man.* They asked him, What Man? He reply'd, *The Man that committed such a bloody Murder so many Years since.* Upon which he was apprehen-ded, and committed to *Newgate*; and being arraigned, was by his own Confession con-demn'd, being first hanged on a Gibbet, and afterwards in Chains at *Mile-End.*

NAR-

NARRAT. XIII.

THere lived in the *North* of *England*, near *Cheſter* in the *Street*, one *Walker*, a Man of a good Eſtate, and a Widower; he had a young Kinſwoman to keep his Houſe, whom he had got with Child; and that it might not be diſcovered, he pretended to ſend her to a private place where ſhe ſhould be well look'd to, till ſhe was brought to Bed, and well again; to which end (as ſhe thought) he ſent her away one Evening in the dark, with one *Mark Sharp* a Collier, who by *Walker*'s Direction, had her to a Moor where there was ſeveral Coal-pits; and there with a Pick-axe (as Men dig Coals withal) he firſt knock'd her down, and then gave her ſeveral wounds, cutting of her Throat alſo, and afterwards flung her into one of the Coal-pits that had been long out of uſe, and had a great quantity of Water in it. And then *Sharp* return'd to *Walker*, and told him what he had done, with which he was very well pleas'd, and rewarded him for his pains. *Walker* (the better to hide his Villany) ſends all about to know what was become of her; and ſeemed very much troubled that ſhe had

gone

gone away from his House without his knowledge. After which there was little notice taken of her being missing. About two Miles from *Walker*'s House, there lived one *James Graham* a Miller, who being one Night very late in his Mill, grinding of Corn, about twelve a Clock at Night, the doors being shut, there stood a Woman before him, with her Hair hanging down all bloody, having several Wounds about her Head, and her Throat being cut very gastly and dismal to behold: The Miller, who was a very honest sober Man, was very much affrighted at this Appariation, and yet had the Courage to ask her, in the name of God, who she was, and what it was she wanted? To whom she reply'd, She was the Ghost or Spirit of such a Woman, who had liv'd at Mr. *Walker*'s, and being got with Child by him, and almost ready to Lye-in, upon Pretence of being sent to a place to Lye in in, was by his Order murder'd in that manner he then saw her, by *Mark Sharp*, and then flung into a Coal-pit. And then added, That he must be the Man to reveal it, or else he should have but little rest or quiet. The Miller endeavour'd to excuse himself, but the Spectrum was very positive that he must do it, and so left him for that Night. The Miller after-

terwards went home to his House very sorrowful and heavy-hearted, but said not a word of what he had seen; and avoided being in the Mill at Night, without Company, as much as he could: But in a little time after, the Apparition met him again, and with a dismal and threatning Countenance, ask'd, Why he had not perform'd her last Injunction, of revealing her Murder? The trembling Miller answer'd, He was afraid he should be ruin'd; for *Walker* was a very rich Man, and if he should accuse him, and knew not how to prove his Accusation, how could he expect any thing else than that *Walker* would ruin him? Alledging also, that *Walker* would be believ'd before himself, that was but a poor Man; and so instead of bringing *Walker* to justice, he should bring himself to ruin. To which the Apparition reply'd, That if he did but what she desir'd, that so *Walker* and *Sharp* might be brought upon their Tryals, there should be no want of Witness; and rather than fail, she would appear herself against them. The Miller then promis'd to do it; but still delay'd, so that the Apparition came the third time, and there so terrify'd and threatned him, that he faithfully promis'd to reveal it the next morning, which he accordingly did; rela-

ting the particulars which the Spectrum had given him an account of, as before recited. The Justice of Peace to whom he declar'd it, told the Miller, he was afraid it might be true; but yet thought it would be a difficult thing to convict 'em upon so slender an Evidence, especially seeing the Body was put where it was impossible to find it: However, he said he would do his Duty, and upon his Information, and Oath of the Truth of what he had seen and heard (which he then administred to him) apprehended *Walker* and *Sharp*. Who being both seiz'd and brought before the Justice, and there confronted by the Miller, boldly denied any knowledge thereof; saying it was only the effect of his distemper'd Brain: Notwithstanding which, they were both committed to Prison. At the following Assizes, which were held at *Durham*, the Tryal came on, the noise whereof had fill'd the whole Country, who were big with expectation of the issue: Some affirm the same Apparition had appear'd to the Judge the Night before the Tryal: but whether that be so or not, I cannot affirm; only this is certain, That the Judge told the Sheriff, that he had been mightily concern'd in his sleep that night, about some Tryal that was to come on that Day; upon which

the

the Sheriff gave him some account of the Cause depending between the Miller of one side, and *Walker* and *Sharp* of the other; upon which the Judge said, he was afraid all was not right on *Walker*'s side. The Tryal coming on, and the Indictment being read, the Miller appear'd to make it good, alledging first, That the young Woman was certainly missing; that it was suspected amongst the Neighbourhood that he had got her with Child; and how she went away, or where she is, there's none can tell; and then related all the fore-going particulars, of the Apparitions putting him upon what he did, by three times appearing to him. *Walker* and *Sharp* still deny'd all; the Judge enquir'd of the Conversation of the Miller, and whether he was wont to be a fanciful Man, and troubled with Whimsies and Chimera's of his own Brain in time past? But was answer'd, He had for many Years had the repute of a very sober honest Man, and one that never us'd to meddle with other People's business. The Miller then desir'd leave of the Judge to inform him of one thing more, and that was, That when he objected to the Apparition how unlikely a thing it was that his single evidence should be taken against such a Man as Mr. *Walker*, that the Apparition told him,

That rather than there ſhould want Evidence, ſhe would appear herſelf in Court; the Miller had no ſooner ſaid the Word, but ſhe appear'd in Court in the ſame Poſture as ſhe had done before to the Miller, ſhewing herſelf firſt to the Judge, and then to the Jury, and afterwards turn'd about, and ſtar'd *Sharp* and *Walker* full in the Face; terrify'd wherewith, they both immediately pleaded guilty, and deſir'd to be taken away from that terrifying Object. Whereupon the Apparition preſently vaniſhed; and the Murderers had Sentence of Death paſs'd upon 'em, and were accordingly Executed.

NAR-

NARRAT. XIV.

IN one of the free Cities in *Germany*, an envious and malicious Person had taken up a grudge against his Neighbour, for having done him some supposed injury; this he kept in mind, and long waited for a convenient opportunity to be reveng'd of him: At last, meeting him in the Woods, he judged that a convenient place for his purpose; and when the Man expected no such thing, laid violent hands upon him, and murdered him, without being at all suspected: The Body afterwards found, was brought before the Senate, and the Murderer not being to be heard of, they commanded the Right-hand to be cut off, and hang'd up over the upper-end of the Dining-table in the Common-hall of the Town-goal. About ten Years after, the Person who committed this Murder, happened to be committed to the same Goal for some trivial Offence; and being brought in the Common-hall, he placed himself at the upper-end of the Table to eat Meat, which was just under the dry'd Hand, that had been hung up there ten Years before, he not knowing any thing of

it: As he was eating, the Hand that was over his Head, dry and wither'd as it was, dropp'd several fresh Drops of Blood upon his Trencher; at which all the Company was amazed, and the Murderer exceedingly terrified: This being told to the Goaler, he went immediately to the Senate, and acquainted them with it; who sent for the Murderer, and examined him about that Murder; and he being terrified in his Conscience by this Divine Prodigy, acknowledged himself guilty of the Murder, and was broken on the Wheel for the same.

NAR-

NARRAT. XV.

A Young Man who was an Apprentice to a Merchant, in *Coleman-ſtreet*, *London*, and drawing towards the laſt Year of his time, had a kindneſs for one of his Fellow-ſervants, who waited upon his Miſtreſs, and obtain'd her Good-will ſo far, that he lay with, and got her with Child; and like an honeſt Man deſign'd to Marry her, when his time was out. And in the mean time he took care to provide things neceſſary for her, againſt her Crying-out; but ſhe, on the contrary, would never own ſhe was with Child, tho' he put it to her ſeveral times, and told her the reaſons he had to believe it. Her continuing to deny, what he ſaw ſo apparently, made him fear ſhe deſign'd to make it away; which apprehenſion made the young Man very uneaſie, and put him upon contriving how to prevent it: In order to which, he makes another Maid in the Houſe his Confident, tells her what he had done, and what his Fears were, and deſires her to obſerve her, and gives her ſomething in hand, and a Promiſe of a better Reward for ſo doing; the Maid upon this, obſerves

the other very narrowly, and finds not only that she was certainly with Child, but very big, and by conferring with the young Man, finds she was pretty near her time; and therefore the young Man tells his Sweetheart again he was sure she was with Child, and what Provision he had made for it; and how he had contriv'd she might with-draw from her Service for a time, and be Deliver'd, with Secrecy, and without any Mistrust; and put the Child out to Nurse; which he would provide for, and when his Time was out, he told her he would Marry her; but she still continu'd to tell him, That all his Provision was Nonsense, and to no purpose, for as much as she was not with Child. He relates all this to his Confident, who being satisfied by undeniable Reasons that she was with Child, was now strongly perswaded she design'd to murther it; to prevent which the young Man and she make fast a Cloth to the bottom of the Necessary-house, least she should put it there; and resolve to watch her very narrowly; nor cou'd she go to the Necessary-house at any time, but she must see her, and as soon as she had been there, was resolved to go and search in that Cloth: This, tho' very troublesome and irksome, they did for some time, and ob-

observing her once seem very much indispos'd, and to tarry at the Necessary-house longer than ordinary, she went thither, just as the other was coming away; and making her usual Search, found in the Cloth a live Child newly born, which was a brave Boy; the Maid, glad she was so lucky to find it alive, takes it, and washes it, and puts it in the Cloaths the young Man had provided for that purpose, and forthwith carries it to the Nurse appointed for it; and when he came home (for he then happen'd to be abroad) tells him what she had done, who rewards her very well for her Pains and Care, being very glad his precaution had succeeded so well. The inexecrable Mother knew nothing of all this, but believ'd she had murther'd it in the House of Office, and was as guilty in the Eye of Heaven, as if it had perish'd there: In a little time she grew better and better, and was much more brisk and chearful than before. The young Man still lov'd her, and liv'd very amicably with her, tho' without any unlawful Familiarities; for he had grown sick of that. He had remov'd the Child from its first Nurse, to one a mile or two out of Town, for the benefit of the Air; and the Child being now almost a

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Quarter old, he desires the Mother to go abroad with him one Holy-day, and take a Walk out of Town; she consents to it, and before he come home, has her to see the Child, which he pretended to be a Friend's Child of his; she seemed very well pleased with the Child, and fondled it very much. As they were going home, she took occasion to say it was a very fine Child, and ask'd him whose it was? He told her it was her own. She started at that, and chang'd her Countenance; but suddenly reply'd, That could not be, because she never had one. Upon which he told her how he had preserv'd it, as is before related; Adding, What a great pity it would have been, so fine a Child should have been lost; and how glad he was he had been a means of saving it. She did not seem very well pleas'd with this Relation he had made her, but conceal'd her Resentments as much as she could, and only said, It was indeed very well; seeming troubled at her own Wickedness: But he comforted her up, and told her now it was all over, and all was well. The next Morning early she pretends business abroad, and goes directly to the Nurse, where the Child was, asking how the Child did, telling her how much she was taken with it,

and

and told her she was going to see a Friend of her's hard by, that would be glad to see the Child, and desir'd her to let her take it with her, and she would bring it back in an hour or two. The Nurse knowing the Father of it brought her thither to see it the Day before, was very well contented, and let her have it. After she got the Child, and was gone from the Nurse, this barbarous Fury (for she deserves not the name of Woman) more savage then the Sea-monsters, (for they draw forth their Breasts to their Young) most inhumanely murthers the pretty smiling Infant; and then goes home, like the Whore in the *Proverbs*, *As if she had done no ill.* The Nurse admir'd the Gentlewoman brought not the Child again; and the next morning goes to the young Man, and tells him what had happen'd: He was very much surpriz'd to hear it, and told her, Perhaps she had put it to another, for she was the own Mother of it; and that he would Enquire about it, and give her a further Account of it in a little time. The Nurse understanding it was the Child's own Mother, was the better satisfied, and went home again. After the Nurse was gone, he goes to the Mother, and asks her why she took away the Child, and what she

she had done with it? She very surlily bids him go look, and tells him he shall never know. Upon this, the young Man fearing what prov'd too true, acquaints his Master with the whole matter, who blames him first for having at all to do with her, yet commends his after prudent Conduct; and himself and Lady first examine her what she had done with the Child; which she refuses to tell; and thereupon a Constable was sent for, and she carried before a Ju- of Peace to be Examin'd, where her doubly guilty Conscience flying in her Face, she confess'd that she had murther'd it; and was afterwards deservedly Executed for the same.

NAR-

NARRAT. XVI.

AT *Winſheim* in *Germany*, a certain Man bought three Calves-heads of a Butcher, much about *Eaſter*, and put them into a Net, and carried them along the Street, in order to carry them home: But ſo it was, that to as many as ſaw them, they appeared to be Mens-heads all bloody; which cauſed all the People to ſtare and look upon them with great Admiration: And ſome that ſaw them, wondering where he ſhould have them three Mens-heads, went and informed the Senate thereof; who immediately ſent Officers to apprehend him, and bring him before them; who ſeeing him have three Mens-heads in his Net, demanded of him where he had them? He anſwered, He bought them in the *Shambels*, of ſuch a Butcher: The Butcher being ſent for, affirmed he ſold him Calves-heads, and not Mens-heads. The Senate being amazed hereat, and not knowing what to make of it, but yet believing there was ſomething more in it than ordinary, or than yet they underſtood, ſent him to Priſon; where being ſtrictly examined, and terrified with this ſtrange

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Transformation, he confessed he had some Years before been guilty of murdering three Men; and so believ'd that this unaccountable Metamorphosis of Calves-heads into Mens-heads, was to bring him to a Confession of his former Sins, that he might justly suffer for them. Whereupon Sentence of Death was pronounced against him, and he was Executed accordingly. After which, when the Heads were taken out of the Net, they were then found to be but Calves-heads. This is affirmed for a truth by *Manlius* in his Common Places.

NARRAT. XVII.

THe Proverb ſays, threaten'd Folks, live long; but the following Narration does thwart the Proverb, which yet may help it ſelf by that old Adage, There is no General Rule, but admits of ſome Exception: And therefore what I am going to relate, is only an Exception to that General Rule. It ſo happened that there fell out a difference between two Neighbours in the Country, upon this occaſion, one of them had impounded the others Cattel, for coming into his Ground; but the other alledged the fault was his, becauſe he did not make good Fences; which if he had done, his Cattle could not have come into his Grounds. This Difference was ſo great, that the more their Friends endeavour'd to Compoſe it, the wider it grew; and after all Eſſays to reconcile 'em, had prov'd fruitleſs, they parted, not without bitter Words to each other: One of 'em threatning the other, that he doubted not but to be even with him in a little time: The Grounds of theſe two Neighbours were Contigious; and early the next Morning, they both went into their ſeveral Grounds to look

look after their Cattel, and to see all things were well; one of them having his Pitchfork on his Shoulder; and in this posture they were seen by some of the Neighbours; they indeed saw 'em not together, for they were parted by a Hedge, but might easily come together, the Hedge being broken in several Places: About an hour after they were thus each of them seen in their several Grounds, he that had threaten'd his Neighbour over Night, came home, eat his Breakfast, as he us'd to do, and went about his business in the Yard, and elsewhere: The other Man not coming according to his wonted time, his Servant went up into the Grounds to see for him, and finds him there murthered, with his Pitchfork sticking by him in the Earth; which by the Tines of it being bloody, was judg'd the Instrument of his Death. The Servant comes running home, and tells the amazing News; the Body is view'd by the Coroners Inquest, and found to be wilfully murder'd: And Oath being made before them of the Difference between him and his Neighbour, and that he threaten'd him the Night before, and was seen in his own Grounds that Morning, when the Murder'd was in his, where afterwards the Body was found murthered, and that but an hour before

fore this Murder happen'd, no one doubted but this incenſed Neighbour was the Murderer, who was thereupon apprehended, but denied that he did it, or that he knew any thing of it, and profeſs'd himſelf very ſorry for it: Notwithſtanding which, he was committed to Goal till the Aſſizes: Which being come, the matter was try'd before the Lord Chief Juſtice *Hale*, and the Evidence ſwearing to the Feud between the two Neighbours, to his Threatning of him the Night before, and to his being ſeen near him that Morning but an hour before this Fact was committed, and the Priſoner owning all that to be true, and having nothing to ſay, but that he did not do it, and that when he went home he left him well in his own Grounds: The Judge told the Jury the Proof was as plain as Humane Probability could make it; and the Circumſtances were ſo ſtrange they almoſt reach'd to poſitive; adding, 'Tis true indeed there's none ſaw it actually done, but if we will take nothing but that for a Proof, many Murderers will eſcape unpuniſh'd: For Murder is a Deed of Darkneſs, and 'tis Circumſtances muſt give light to the Diſcovery; and Circumſtances could never be ſtronger, than in this Caſe. After the Judge had ended, the Jury went

out, and moſt of 'em were of opinion they need not have troubled the Court to wait, but preſently have found him guilty: But the Foreman of the Jury was of another mind, and told his Fellows he did not believe him guilty upon thoſe Circumſtances, and that he could not agree to ſuch a Verdict: The Debate took 'em a great while, the Foreman ſtill perſiſting in his Opinion, and telling them whatever they thought, it was beſt to be on the ſafer ſide: And having thus drawn them to conſent to what he ſaid, The Jury came into the Court, and brought in the Priſoner not Guilty. The Judge ask'd them, what they meant? And whether they were all agreed? they anſwered, Yes. He perſwaded them to go out again, and repeated the Evidence to 'em, ſhew'd 'em how full it was, and that nothing could be more plain, unleſs he had been ſeen to do it, which he had only taken care to prevent. The Jury go out again, and debate upon what the Judge had ſaid, and endeaveur to perſwade the Fore-man to agree with them, and bring the Priſoner in guilty. But the Foreman told them he poſitively knew him not to be guilty, and therefore told them he would never agree with them, but did aſſure them they might depend upon him, that

that they would bring in a just and true Verdict in acquitting him; tho' it was not convenient for him to give them any furthur account. Upon this, the Jury go in again, and being ask'd, whether they were all agreed? The Foreman answer'd, *Yes*; and then gave in their Verdict the second time, Not guilty. The whole Court was amaz'd at this Verdict of the Jury; and the Judge ask'd them, what it was that byas'd them to that Verdict? One of the Jury made Answer, *My Lord, We all believe he is guilty, but our Fore-man, and he it is that has perswaded us to this Verdict. How!* says the Judge, to the Fore-man, *have you a mind to to bring the Guilt of Innocent Blood upon yourself? No, my Lord*, reply'd the Fore-man, *it is because I am not willing to bring the guilt of Innocent Blood upon myself, that I have perswaded my Fellow-Jurors to this Verdict.* The Judge then bid him explain himself, for he knew not how that could be. The Foreman then told him, That if he might obtain that Favour from his Lordship, as to use his Interest with the King on his behalf, he would unfold the Riddle; which the Judge promising, The Fore-man said thus, *My Lord, on that unhappy Day on which this Murder was committed, I had been walking out very*

early in the Morning, and had lost my way; which I endeavour'd to recover by irregularly crossing of the grounds, being out of any Path; and unhappily coming into the Grounds of the murder'd Person, he was there himself, and seeing me, came running to me, giving me abusive Words, and bidding me get out of his Grounds; which I was endeavouring to do as fast I could; but nothing would serve his turn but I must go back again; which I refusing, he struck at me with his Fork; which put me into such a Passion, that I wrested the Fork out of his hands, and run it into his Guts, killing him dead upon the Spot, and then stuck the Fork into the Ground by him; and looking round about, and seeing no body, made all the haste I could away, and was never discover'd; therefore, my Lord, knowing the Prisoner at the Bar to be Innocent, I could not in Conscience bring him in guilty; for tho' in my passion I had committed one Murther, I was very unwilling to be guilty of another. And having thus declar'd the Truth, and discharg'd my Conscience, I hope your Lordship will represent the matter so to the King, that I may be thought worthy of his Mercy. The Judge commended him for his ingenious Confession, but blam'd him for letting his Passion loose to that degree, as to make him guilty of Murther; which by the Law of God requires Blood for Blood; and that as to the King's

King's Mercy, he told him that was a Prerogative lock'd up in his Royal Breast, which he only had the disposing of; and that he was but the Minister of his Justice; but he would, however, commit him to Prison, till the next Assizes, and in the mean time represent his Case to the King as it was. The falsly accused Prisoner return'd hearty Thanks to God for his Deliverance, and went home very joyfully, resolving henceforth to be Friends with all Mankind, and never to threaten any Man again.

NAR-

NARRAT. XVIII.

A Young Woman living near *Paris*, was very much courted by two Men; and tho' they both lov'd her, yet being Rivals, they mortally hated each other: Each thinking the cold Reception he had from his Miſtreſs, proceeded from the kind Entertainment his Rival had met with before. He that was the leaſt agreeable to his Miſtreſs, finding his Rival preferr'd before him, watch'd an opportunity to be rid of him, as thinking then his own Addreſſes might be better receiv'd; and therefore watching his opportunity, as the other was going to viſit his Miſtreſs, he way-laid and murder'd him, and buried him at ſome diſtance from the Road; the murther'd Perſon had always a Dog that went along with him, in whom he much delighted: This Dog after his Maſter was buried, would not depart from his Grave, loving him even after he was dead: The murder'd Man being miſt by his Relations, they diligently ſought for him; and going near the place where he was buried, the Dog ſees and knows them, and runs to them; whom they make much of, and would have

have had the Dog along with them; but the Dog runs back again, and whines, in his dumb Language asking them to follow him; which they do, and find a Grave had been there lately made, upon which the Dog lay down, and howled piteously; whereupon they opened the Grave, and found the murther'd Body which they had been seeking; and which they removed to his Father's House, and after the Body had been viewed and found to be murther'd, they buried it in the Burying-place belonging to their Family: And one of his Brothers took care of the Dog, and made much of him, for love he had shew'd to his former Master. But the Murtherer of his Brother they knew not where to find, tho' diligent search had been made after him, tho' to no purpose. It happend, that (about six Months after) the Dog being with his new Master, (when he was going abroad with some other of his Relations) espied the Murderer of his old Master, and flew upon him with great fierceness and violence; the young Man cries out for help, and with much ado his Master gets him off: The Dog having very much wounded the Stranger, who demands Satisfaction, and will have the Dog kill'd; his Master defends the Dog, and will not suf-

fer him to be medled with, nor dares he let him go, for fear of his falling upon the Stranger again. But the Stranger insisting upon Satisfaction; the Master of the Dog and his Relations apprehends him, and has him before a Magistrate, they declaring how the Dog's old Master was murther'd, and how the Dog was with him at that time, and likewise how they found his murther'd Body by the Dog; and that the Dog had been with them ever since, and never medled with any one before; that the Man gave him now no Provocation, and therefore they believed he was the Murtherer of the Dog's first Master: The Magistrates were very much of the same Opinion, and endeavoured to bring him to a Confession thereof, but to no purpose; for he stoutly denied all: When they saw they could not prevail with him to Confess, they decreed, that the young Man and the Dog should fight together, and that the young Man should have a Spear to defend himself: The young Man unwillingly accepted of this Combat, and so they were both led out together; and as soon as the Dog was let loose, before the Man could strike at him with his Spear, the Dog leap'd up at his Face, and caught him fast hold by the Throat, and threw him

down; at which the guilty Wretch cry'd out to the Spectators, Take pity on me, and pull off the Dog, and I'll confess all: Which being done, he confess'd himself to be the Murderer of the Man, declaring the Cause thereof, as before related; for which he received a just and deserved Punishment.

NAR-

NARRAT. XIX.

IN the Reign of *Chriſtian* the Second, King of *Denmark*, when about twelve of his Courtiers were making merry one Night, in the midſt of their Mirth there happened a Quarrel, in which the King's Poſt-maſter (who was his great Favourite) was engag'd; and all the Lights being ſuddenly put out, one of them was found murthered with a Dagger, his Body lying breathleſs on the Floor when the Lights were brought in again. The King requir'd an Account for his dead Subject; the Nobles lay all the Blame and Guilt upon the Poſt-maſter; but the King thinking they ſpoke out of Envy, would not believe it. The Nobles alledge, That the Poſt-maſter was the cauſe of that Meeting, and that there had been a former Grudge and Malice between him and the Perſon murdered; and that when the Lights were brought in, he was found next to the dead Body: And therefore they deſired, if it pleaſed the King, That the Corpſe might be laid upon the Table, and every one ſingly to lay his hand upon the naked Breaſt of the Perſon

mur-

murdered; proteſting their Innocency, with an Imprecation on themſelves, if they were Guilty. The King agreed to it, and the Body was laid upon a Table in the middle of the Room, with the Breaſt uncovered; and each of them one after another went to the Body, laying their hand on the Breaſt, and ſaying, *I declare in the preſence of God, who knows the Truth of what I ſay, That I am innocent of this Murther; and if I am guilty of ſhedding this Blood, let it teſtifie againſt me by bleeding afreſh.* They had all done this but the Poſt-maſter (who was to bring up the Rear) and no alteration appear'd in the Corpſe: At laſt the Poſt-maſter went to perform that Ceremony, going firſt to the Feet and Legs, embracing and kiſſing them with much ſeeming affection, as if by ſo doing he deſign'd to appeaſe the angry Ghoſt: And then laying his hand upon the naked Breaſt, as he was ſpeaking the words, the Blood guſhed out abundantly, both from the Wound and Noſtrils, to the Amazement of the King and all his Nobles; but much more to the terrifying of the Poſt-maſter, whoſe guilty Conſcience flying in his Face, made him confeſs the Murder; upon which the King caus'd him to be committed to Priſon; after which he had Sentence of Death paſs'd upon him, and was executed accordingly.

NAR-

NARRAT. XX.

SIr *Walter Smith*, Knight, of in the County of *Warwick*, being a very wealthy Man, and being a Widower, was resolved to look out a suitable Match for his Son *Richard*; and to that end had his Eye upon Mr. *Thomas Chetwin*, of in *Staffordshire*, a Gentlman of a fair Estate, to have his Daughter for his Son, and accordingly proposed it to him; which Mr. *Chetwin*, willingly agrees to, and tells him what he will give with his Daughter, provided Sir *Walter* will make her such a Joynture. All things being thus agreed, Sir *Walter* goes over to Mr. *Chetwin*'s to see his Daughter-in-law that was to be: But when he comes thither and sees her, the old Knight forgets his Son, and was for himself; assuring Mr. *Chetwin* that if he'd let him have his Daughter for himself, instead of his Son, he would not only remit the Portion his Son was to have with her, but would also pay him 500 *l.* Mr. *Chetwin* look'd upon this as so advantagious a Proposal for him that could not tell how to deny it; and therefore readily agreed to it. And then goes and ac-

acquaints his Daughter therewith; but ſhe oppoſes it, and tells her Father he was old enough be her Grand-father; that it was extreamly unſuitable, and that ſhe could not love him, and ſhould never be happy with him: And therefore prays her Father to put it off, and let her have the Son; but her Father was deaf to her Deſires; and Sir *Walter*'s Money had ſo influenc'd him, that he told her if ſhe did not comply with what he commanded her, he would never own her, nor do any thing for her. At length over-aw'd by her Father's Threats, ſhe unwillingly conſented to his Deſires, and was married to Sir *Walter*. But inforced Marriages are never happy, eſpecially when ſo unſuitable; as the Event of this too ſuddenly manifeſted. For her Husband being Old and Impotent, could not anſwer what her Youth expected; and therefore ſhe ſoon after entertained a young Spark to make good his Deficiences; but this did not ſatisfie her; there was danger of being diſcover'd, and the fear of that made her uneaſie, and the old Knight troubleſome to her, inſomuch that ſhe reſolves to be rid of him; to which end, ſhe had, by Promiſe of Rewards, already gain'd her Waiting-gentlewoman, who was alſo her Confident

in

in her Amours, and also one of the Grooms of the Stable; and to effect this the better, had also acquainted her Gallant therewith, and desir'd his Assistance, which he promised, and thereupon a Day (or rather Night) was prefix'd for the Acting of this horrid Tragedy. The time being come, and her Husband and the Family being all in Bed, she expected only the coming of her Gallant, but he came not (perhaps dreading to be concern'd in so black a Business) however, our Virago was resolv'd to go thorow-stitch with her Business; and brings her two Assistance into her Husband's Chamber, he being fast asleep in his Bed; and then the Groom gets upon him, to keep him down, while the other two with a Napkin twisted about his Neck, by their hard pulling of it, Strangle him, and send his Soul into Eternity. When they had done this, they take him out of his Bed, put him on a Night-gown, and so set him on a Close-stool, in the next Chamber; and then the Groom departs privately and softly to his Chamber, and the Waiting-gentlewoman to hers, which was hard by; and the Lady herself also goes to Bed, and puts out her Candle; the House being thus all in a profound Silence, the young Lady on a sudden cries out, and calls

to

to the Servants to know what was become of their Maſter, pretending to have lately awaken'd, and miſt him out of the Bed, the Servants riſe and look about for their Maſter, and at laſt find him ſitting dead, upon a Cloſe-ſtool, which they acquaint the Lady withal; who counterfeits the greateſt Surprize and Sorrow for that Accident as could poſſibly be imagin'd; ſo that none doubted, but that Sir *Walter* riſing to go to the Cloſe-ſtool, died ſuddenly there, nor was there the leaſt Suſpition in the World of his being murder'd. And having ſucceeded ſo far well, ſhe begins now to ſlight her forward Gallant, and in a little time after the Celebration of her Husband's Funeral, goes up to *London*, deſigning there to make the beſt of her Wealth and Beauty. Her Waiting-gentlewoman went along with her; but the Groom (after having a good Reward from her) was retain'd by Mr. *Richard Smith*, (Sir *Walter*'s Son) becauſe he had been his Father's Servant; and thus far things ſeem'd to go well, and all the Accomplices of this horrid murder proſper'd. But, alas! tho' Mens Eyes may be blinded, there's no ſtopping the Eye of Heaven; much leſs of the God of Heaven: For about ſix months after, when Mr. *Smith* was going to *Coven-*

try,

try, and had in the way call'd to see a Gentleman of his Acquaintance, where his Servants had been liberally entertain'd, among whom was that wretched Groom that liv'd with his Father, who having got almost drunk there, and finding the murder of his old Master lie upon his Conscience, resolv'd to make it known to his Master, and desiring to speak with him in private, first begg'd his Pardon, and then declar'd the manner of his Father's death, and that himself was one that was concern'd in it, and so laid down the whole Contrivance, as before recited. Mr. *Smith* was extreamly surpriz'd at this Relation, which he had never had the least thoughts of: But however, commended the Groom for his Ingenuity in discovering of it, and gave him very good Words; yet order'd his other Servants to look strictly after him, that he made no Escape away; if possibly he might repent of what he had done, when he was sober, for his Master saw he was in drink: And it so fell out; for the Groom after having slept, was sensible of the danger he had expos'd himself to, by the Discovery he had made to his Master. And therefore gets up in the middle of the Night, and flies away into *Wales* upon one of his Master's best Horses: and so got to the Sea-side,

where

where a Ship was ready to sail for *Ireland*; on which he went aboard, and the Ship put out to Sea with a fair Wind: but, whether can a Man flee from Divine Vengeance? It is God that has said, *He that sheddeth Man's Blood, by Man shall his Blood be shed*; and both the Winds and the Sea obey him: And this the Groom experienc'd; for having, as I said, put to Sea, a contrary Wind, forces the Ship back again into the Harbor. And that it might appear to be the Finger of God, it does so three times Successively: In the mean time Men were sent out by Mr. *Smith* to apprehend him; and suspecting he might endeavour to get into *Ireland*, makes towards the Sea-side, and comes thither where this Murderer was, just as the Ship wherein he was came back the third time. And so being apprehended was carried to *Warwick* Goal; and the young Lady and her Gentlewoman seized in *London*, and carried down thither also: At first, she stoutly denied the thing, and stood much upon her own Innocency; but being told what the Groom had confest, she seemed to abate much of her Confidence: But at their Tryal, the Groom denied all he had said, and said it was nothing but a Contrivance of Mr. *Smith*'s, to get his Mother-in-law's Joyn-

ture: But the young Lady was then come to a ſence of her Sin, and confeſs'd it. And ſo they all received Sentence of Death: She being burn'd upon a Common near Sir *Walter*'s Houſe, and the two Servants Executed at *Warwick*. The Ruine of the young Lady being occaſion'd by the Dotage of Sir *Walter*, and Avaritious Temper of her own Parents; for had ſhe been Married to the Son, (as ſhe deſir'd) inſtead of the Father, ſhe might have liv'd long and happily; and ſo have avoided that fearful and untimely End.

NAR-

NARRAT. XXI.

IN that part of *Germany* known by the name of *Almaign*, a lonely Traveller was ſet upon by two Thieves, who not being contented with the Robbing of him, would needs murther him alſo, to prevent their Diſcovery; (it being uſeful for the Devil to tempt Men to one Sin firſt, and afterwards to commit a greater to conceal the Sin firſt committed: So dangerous a thing it is for a Man to give way to the beginnings of Sin, for they know not where it will end;) the poor Travellor begg'd hard for his Life, and told 'em his Death would avail them but little; for that he knew 'em not; and deſir'd they would rather leave him bound, than take away his Life: But the Villains were inexorable, and harden'd in Wickedneſs, ſo that nothing would prevail with them to leave him. And being juſt at the point of Death, looking about for help, but finding none, he eſpied a great Number of Crows flying over his head, to whom the Dying Man thus ſpake, *O Crows, I take you to be the Witneſſes of my Murder, and the Revengers of my Death.* Upon

the ſpeaking whereof, the barbarous Villains immediately kill'd him. But Divine Vengeance follow'd 'em, and ſoon after brought 'em to deſerved puniſhment For: tho' the murder'd Body was quickly found, and none knew who were the Murderers; yet they going not long after to drink at an Alehouſe and eſpying a great Company of Crows ſitting at a Houſe over-againſt them, one of them fell alaughing, and ſaid to the other, *Look yonder are the Man's Witneſſes which we diſpatch'd the other Day.* Theſe words being ſpoken aloud, were over-heard by the Tapſter, who preſently acquaints his Maſter with it: The Maſter forthwith ſends for an Officer and apprehends them; the Murderers upon the ſight of the Officer immediately fell a trembling, and the Guilt of their Fact ſtaying in their Conſciences, upon the Tapſter's declaring what he heard one of 'em ſay to the other, they confeſt the Murder, as before related, and received the juſt Puniſhment due to them for their Crimes. The Fowls of the Air being thus the occaſion of Diſcovering their Crimes, according to the Words of the murder'd Perſon.

THE

THE INTRODUCTION.

THere is nothing that more Emaſculates and debaſes the Minds of Men, than too much Eaſe and Pleaſure: For Luxury has deſtroy'd more than the Sword; and been the Ruine of thoſe Victorious Armies that Arms could never Over-come; as was manifeſt in the Great Hannabal, whoſe Army lying for ſome time in Capua, and there taſting the Delights of Italy, ſpending their time in Rioting and Luxury, was thereby ſo Enfeebled, that they could never, to any purpoſe, oppoſe the Roman Arms in Italy again: Old Tobias Maximus the Roman Dictator well knowing, that to let him live at Eaſe in Capua, was to Over-come him without Fighting. And it was that Peace and Plenty that England enjoy'd upon the Reſtoration of King Charles the Second, that made way for that Debauchery which ſo univerſally corrupted the Manners of the Nation; and made Adultery ſo reigning a Sin amongſt us; but let Men judge of this Sin as they pleaſe,

and not only paſs it by with Impunity, but Countenance it alſo; yet none that are guilty thereof can think to eſcape the Judgment of God, whoſe Sacred Law they thereby violate; and who has, as to all ſaid, Thou ſhalt not commit Adultery; *as,* Thou ſhalt not Kill; *who has alſo appointed for each of thoſe Tranſgreſſions a like Puniſhment, which is Death; and tho' Men have remitted the ſuppoſed Rigour of the Laws, yet the Sacred Scripture informs us,* That Whoremongers and Adulterers God will Judge. *But becauſe no Arguments have that force to deter Men from this hateful and abominable Sin, as Examples have; I have added a few Hiſtorical Narrations, inſtead of many, to ſhew the Triumphs of Divine Juſtice, in the juſt Puniſhment thereof.*

THE

THE Triumphs of Divine Justice DISPLAY'D, IN THE Just PUNISHMENT OF THE Abominable and Filthy Sin of Adultery.

NARRATION. I.

NOt far from the Town of *Northampton*, (which since the dreadful Destruction of that Town by Fire, is like the Phœnix sprung out of the Ashes of the other;

with more Beauty and Splendor than any other Town in *England* beside) there liv'd a young Woman, whose Beauty was so very remarkable, that 'twas almost impossible to to see her, and not love her: She had something in her Face so unaccountably Charming, that she soon had many Adorers; but one who was by Trade a Butcher, carry'd off the fair Prize from all the rest, and married her; more pleas'd to be the Possessor of so much Beauty, than if the Treasures of *Peru* and *Mexico* had been his own; and she was as well pleas'd with her Husband, as he was with his Wife: And thus far all smil'd upon them, and they were both as happy as their own Hearts could wish: But ah! The Ficklenes of Fortune, and the Instabblity of Worldly Things! He that places his happiness in any thing besides God, will be sure to meet with Disappointments: This Woman's Beauty prov'd the poor Man's Bane, as the Sequel of this Narration will shew us.

For some good while after, amongst others who admir'd this Woman for her Beauty, it unhappily fell out that one who, by his Calling ought to have been an Example to others in good Living; and in walking the Paths of *Venus*, took upon him the Work of the Devil, and became a Tempter

to

to Vice, soliciting the Woman to unlawful Love: For coming one Day to see her, when her Husband was abroad, she entertain'd him with that Civility and Respect which was due to his Character; but he fetching many Sighs, and looking very dejectedly, it occasion'd her to ask him how he did; for that he appear'd to her not to be well: To which he answer'd, He was indeed far from being well, that he was afraid he never shou'd be so. No Sir, reply'd the young Woman, I am very sorry for that. I would you were, reply'd the Parson, for then I should conceive some hope of being cur'd; for it his only in your power to make me well; I make you well, Sir, says she: I am but a very bad Physician; but if I cou'd contribute to the Removing any thing that indispose you, you may assure yourself that I would quickly do it. O thou dearest Quintescense of Sweetness, cries the half ravish'd Person, make but your Words good, and you make me happy; for 'tis your Beauty that has wounded me, and 'tis your Love can only work the Cure. At these last words the young Woman seem'd to be mightily surpriz'd, and told him, that she did not expect to hear such Words from him; that she hop'd he was far from being in Earnest in

what

what he said; and that it was only to make a trial of her Vertue, which as she had hitherto kept unspotted, so was always resolv'd to do; and having said this, she rose up, and was going to leave him; But he hastily rising, catches hold of her Arm, and stop'd her; and told her he was sorry he had offended her; but that it was the Greatness of the Passion he had for her, that caus'd him to declare himself; that he had a long time suffer'd for her; and had endeavour'd to resist his growing Passion, but in vain; for how it was so great that nothing but Enjoyment could allay it: That indeed it ill became one of his Coat to court another Person's Wife; but that he did so, was yet a further Argument of the Greatness of his Passion; and that it would be the unkindest thing in the World in her to be obdurate to so tender a Passion as his was: And so, squeezing her hand, and kissing her with all the Eagerness of a transported Lover, he caus'd her to sit down again: Upon which, with a frowning and angry Countenance she said, I at first hop'd that all this foolish Courtship had but been in jest; but you give me too much reason to believe that you are now in earnest; and since you are so, I'll be so too: With what Front can you, that

wear that Gown, that have enter'd into holy Orders, that pretend to teach others the way to Heaven, thus hotly solicit me to walk in that broad way that leads to Hell? Is that Love, that aims at my Destruction; and attempts the violating of my Chastity? So far it is from Love, that 'tis the greatest Hatred: For you Design nothing but to betray me to Shame and Dishonour here, and to Eternal Misery hereafter: And your insisting on the Greatness of your Passion, is to plead that for an Excuse, which heightens the Crime, and is its highest Aggravation, for the greater it is by so much is it the more Criminal. Recolect your self therefore, and remember the Instructions that you use to give to others, and now apply them to your self: I heave hard you say, That Lust is best over-come by Resisting and not by Yielding to it: That to yield to it, is but to inflame it, like pouring Oyl upon the Fire to quench it, which only makes it burn the fiercer: Now do but labour to put these Truths in practise, and you will find it the most Effectual Remedy to cure this raging Calenture of Lust.

One would have thought that what *Evadne* said (for by that borrow'd Name I'll henceforth call her) had been enough to

quench

quench the flames of Lust in our Canonical Gallant, and that so much Vertue as appear'd in her last Words might have put a stop to his Career, and have prevented any further Solicitations: But, alas! it prov'd quite otherwise: For as in a distemper'd Body, whatever Food the Patient takes, does only nourish the Disease, 'till 'tis eradicated; so was it here. For after some small pause, our Amarous Spark does thus accost her: My dear *Evadne*, I do acknowledge that I have spoken all, and more than you have said; nor do I know how to resist the force of those sharp Weapons, that you have taken from my own Artilery, and us'd against me: But, alas! this only shews me, that 'tis far easier to give, than 'tis to take good Counsel: For all that you have said, still makes my Passion burn with greater Ardour; and like the Oyl that you were speaking of, does only make the Fire of my Affection break forth into a fiercer Flame. That Beauty which before had charm'd my heart, being enamel'd with so great a Vertue, will make the Conquest worthy of my Pains. And why should I despair of over-coming that Obduracy and Scorn wherewith you treat me, when I so evidently see you are all Goodness, and every Linsament in that fair Face

of

of yours, tells me that you are flexible, and cannot be without some Sparks of Pity. If I have Err'd, 'tis you are in the Fault, whose Eyes have darted such fierce flames of Love into my heart, as have almost consum'd me; and whose bright Charms have been so powerful, that all my strongest Resolutions have been forc'd to bow before 'em: Since therefore I have no Passion but what's the Product of your own Perfections, I hope ——— You hope in Vain, reply'd *Evadne* hastily, if you hope any thing from me that's contrary to Vertue; and since you thus convert the Antidotes I gave you into Poyson, I have another Remedy to administer, which will, I hope, be more effectual; and that is to keep myself out of your sight, since I have been the cause of your Distemper; and sure when thus I've took away the Cause, the Effect will quickly cease. And having said this, without giving him time to reply, she rose up and left him. Thus far *Evadne* quitted herself bravely, and came off victoriously; and had she afterwards but kept her Ground as well, she had prevented those fatal Accidents that after follow'd. And yet even in this she seem'd too easie, and the very Entering into Discourse on such a Subject, and especially her suffering still to hear

a Man solicite her to that which ought not to be nam'd, was to yield so much to the Temptation, as to shew a Possibility of her being Overcome; at least, it was enough to Encourage the Tempter, and so the Issue shew'd it: For, after she was gone from him into another Apartment, the Canonical Spark went home; pretty well satisfied that he had had the Liberty of Declaring himself; and hoping that at the next Assault he might be more successful. Nor did his hopes deceive him: For poor, tho' fair *Evadne*, who had not been us'd to be courted by Persons of his Figure, he being a very handsome Man, gentle in his Behaviour, and of a very good Mein; she begun from thence to despise her own Husband, and thought she might have liv'd in a more splendid Station, had she accepted of the Parson's Love; insomuch that she was almost sorry that she had us'd him so severely; and resolved, that if he ever came again, she would use him with more Tenderness.

Evadne's Husband being (as I have said before) a Butcher, went oftentimes to Fairs to buy his Cattel at the cheapest hand; where commonly he staid two or three Days: At such a time, about a fortnight after his first Visit, he went to visit her again.

At

At his first coming in, she seem'd extreamly Coy, and would scarce speak to him; notwithstanding which, he went to her, and saluted her, telling her that neither her late Coldness and Indifferency, nor his Absence from her for fourteen Days together, which were to him longer than fourteen Years before, had not been able to keep the bright Idea of her Beauty out of his Heart, which was so deeply Engraven there, that Time itself could never extinquish it: And that he hop'd his Constancy and Patience would at last move her to Compassion. To which she answer'd, That if he had entertain'd any such Passion as he spoke of, for her, it must needs be a very criminal one, and therefore not to be indulg'd; and she thought she had the last time given him a sufficient Account of her Resolution; and, but that she hop'd he would no more be troublesome to her, she would have told her Husband; which if he still persisted, she must at last be forc'd to do, for her own Peace and Safety; but she had so great a Respect for his Person, and more especially for the Gown he wore, that she hop'd he would not put her upon that last Remedy. No, dear *Evadne*, reply'd the Amorous Gallant, very eagerly, you may assure yourself, I'll never

ver put you upon that; and then embracing her with all the Endearing Careſſes of an eager Lover, with which ſhe ſeem'd not much diſpleas'd; he told her he would no longer Court her with bare Words, but give her more Subſtantial Teſtimonies of his Paſſion: To which ſhe only faintly ſaid, *How ſhall I anſwer this unto my Husband?* The Parſon over-joy'd he had ſo far prevail'd, told her he'd manage matters with that Secrecy, her Husband ſhould be never able to diſcover it. (But had ſhe ask'd him, how ſhe ſhould Anſwer it to God, whoſe holy Law they thereby violated, it would have been a far more proper Queſtion.) And now the Parſon having gain'd his Prize, has opportunity enough to ſatisfie his Luſt, and even ſurfeit in the Exceſs of his Unlawful Pleaſures, while the much injur'd Husband knew nothing of the matter, being abroad about his juſt Occaſions: And they both hug'd themſelves in the Concealment of their Wickedneſs. But tho' the Hand of Juſtice moves but ſlowly, yet when it ſtrikes the Blow, it ſtrikes to purpoſe.

After *Evadne* and her Gallant, had liv'd ſome Months in the Enjoyment of their Adulterous Pleaſures, without the leaſt ſuſpition of her Husband; he had occaſion to

go to *Market-harborow* in *Leicestershire*, to buy some Cattel; and be two or three Days before he came back: This she acquainted her Gallant withal, and he with joy embraces the Opportunity, and goes to her, as an Ox to the slaughter, resolving to lie there all Night, and take his fill of Love until the Morning, even till a Dart strike through his Liver, as *Solomon* Phrases it; and knew not that it was for his Life: For the abused Husband came home much sooner than he was expected; even at three of the Clock in a Summer's Morning. It seems the Adulterous Couple were so secure (at least-ways thought themselves so) that they had not so much as made fast the Door of the Chamber where they lay: For had they but done that, the Parson's Fate perhaps had been prevented: The Good Man, as I said before, coming home much earlier than he was expected, went straight to his Wive's Chamber, designing to have gone to bed and sleep some hours, because he had been travelling all Night: But entering the Chamber, he then finds his Wife and her Gallant in Bed together, both fast asleep, and the Parson's Canonical Habiliments in a Chair by the Bedside, by which means he knew who and what he was: The Man at such an unexpect-

ed and surprizing sight, was fill'd with all the Grief and Rage which such an Injury as that, was proper to inspire him with: And in this Rage of his, he softly goes down no Stairs again, and fetches up his Cleaver, whilst they continued both still fast asleep; (a fatal sleep to him, from which he never was again to wake) and going unto that side of the Bed on which the Parson lay, the incensed Butcher lifting up the Cleaver, did with one fatal Blow divide the Parson's Head asunder, as he had oft been us'd to do a Calf's, and sent his filthy and adulterous Soul, reaking from the hot Bed of Lust, to the Tribunal of his offended Maker, there to receive the just Reward that's due to those, who live and die in unrepented Sin, and in the open Violation of his holy Laws.

The bloody Stroke awak'd his Wife from Sleep, who opening of her Eyes, and seeing of her Husband stand at the Bed-side, and that he had the Cleaver in his hand, embrew'd in Blood, which issu'd plentifully from that Mortal Wound, and run about the Bed whereon she lay, she gave a sad and dreadful Shriek, expecting that herself should follow his sad Fate: And holding of the Parson's divided Head together, begg'd of her Husband, that he'd spare her Life.

To

To whom, he with an angry Countenance, reply'd, *Strumpet, in Justice you deserve to follow him; but since I do believe 'twas he intic'd you to commit this Wickedness, I'll spare your Life; but will expose you unto all the Shame your filthy Lust has justly brought upon you: And since to gratifie your lustful Lover, you've strip'd yourself of all your Modesty, by pulling off your Smock itself to please him, your Neighbours shall be witness of your Shame as well as I.* And having spoken this, he takes her Shift, which lay upon the Bed, and all her Cloaths out of the Room, and locking fast the door, left her and her dead Lover in the Room together: Alas! What dismal Fruits of Sin are these! How is her Soul confounded at the Sence of her own Wickedness, and at its fatal and accursed Issue: Whilst still she does expect to be expos'd in all the Shame and Nakedness to which her Wickedness and Folly had betray'd her, to all the Neighbours that are round about. How sweet we relish the Delights of Sin, when we first taste 'em; and yet how bitter and how deadly are they afterwards?

Her Husband having left her with her dead Lover, naked as she was born, without a Rag to cover her; when he was gone, she rises from that bloody Bed, whereon

her ſlaughter'd Lover lay weltering in his Gore, and with his Gown cover'd her Nakedneſs.

In the mean time, her Husband, having ſecur'd her Cloaths, went to his Neighbours, and told 'em what he had done, deſiring them to go and ſee in what Condition he had left his Wife, and in what manner the young Parſon lay. His Neighbours were ſtruck with Horror at the dire Relation, and ſcarce believing what he ſaid, went with him. And entering the Chamber, when he had firſt unlock'd the Door, they found the miſerable Prieſt lye weltering in his Gore upon the Bed, and the poor Woman holding his Head together with his Canonical Garment upon her, to cover her Nakedneſs: The Husband was apprehended by the Neighbours, and charg'd with a Conſtable, by whom he was carried before a Juſtice of Peace, and by him ſent to *Northampton*-Goal, there to remain till the Aſſizes And the murdered Parſon was carried without Pity to the Grave and buried.

When the Aſſizes at *Northampton* came, the Butcher was arraign'd for Murder; who telling the whole Story honeſtly, as was before related, that fatal Circumſtance of going down, and fetching up the Cleaver, caus'd

caus'd the Jury to bring him in Guilty of Wilful and Premeditated Murther. For which he receiv'd Sentence of Death. The poor Man receiv'd his Sentence very willingly, not desiring to live, since she in whom he plac'd his earthly Happiness, had lost her Honour, and defil'd his Bed.

At the Place of Execution he much bewail'd his Rashness, in cutting off a Man even in the very Act of Sin, and that without the liberty of sending up one Prayer for Mercy: And then he pray'd heartily for his Wife, that God would give her true Repentance, for having been perswaded to commit that Sin that had occasion'd his own Death, as well as his that lay with her. And then being turned off, he lanch'd into the Ocean of Eternity. And I believe his dying Prayers prevail'd with the Almighty; for the poor Woman, reflecting on the greatness of her Sin, did even drown herself in penetential Tears of Sorrow; becoming as great an Instance of Repentance and Mortification, as she had been before of Sin and Lust.

May this Tragical Story be a sufficient Warning to all that read or hear it, to beware of that hateful Sin of Adultery, since it does not only lead down to the Chamber

of Death, but its Steps take hold of Hell. And tho' they act it never so ſecretly, yet ſooner or later it will come to light; and then let 'em remember that Jealouſie is the Rage of a Man; therefore he will not ſpare in the Day of Vengeance.

NAR-

NARRAT. II.

IN the Reign of our Fifth *Henry* of *England*, whoſe many Victories againſt the *French*, Immortalize his Fame, there liv'd a Knight of no ſmall Note and Eminency, who had been Perſonally with the King in all his Wars in *France*, and by his Perſonal Valour had made himſelf Remarkable: This valiant *Engliſh* Man, after the Wars were done, reſolved to Sequeſter himſelf from all Publick Affairs, and to lead a more Contemplative Life: His Lady was the Poſſeſſor of ſo much Beauty, as attracted the Eyes of all Beholders; and yet was as remarkable for her Vertue as her Beauty: With her our Noble Knight intended to ſpend the remainder of his Life, and taſte the Sweets of Peace, after all the Fatigues and Dangerous Adventures of War wherein he had been engag'd before. His Eſtate (which was conſiderably great) lying in *Norfolk*, he made the City of *Norwich* the place of his Reſidence. And the Building of Churches and Moneſteries being a great part of the Devotion of that Age, he was reſolved to be in the Faſhion; and himſelf and Lady re-

reſolving to addict themſelves to the Exerciſe of Religion, he, by the Prieſts Direction, builded a Church and Convent adjoyning to his own Houſe; which, in that dark Age, was look'd on as a meritorious thing: The Convent he endow'd with Maintenance for twelve Friars; who tho' all Brethren of the ſame Order, yet liv'd not in that Unity that Brethren ought to have done; two of them being particularly at Variance with each other, to that degree, that there was no reconciling them; of theſe, the Name of the one was *John*, and the other *Richard*: Now it was the daily Cuſtom of this Knight and his vertuous Conſort, to riſe early every Morning to *Mattins* or Morning-prayers; and the Lady being of an exceeding courteous and affable Temper, and ready to Oblige every one; this good Nature of hers was miſ-interpreted by one of the fore-named Friars, to wit, Friar *John*; who being naught himſelf, interpreted all Actions, done by this Lady, not as they were indeed the Effects of good Nature and Civility, but as Indications of ſome particular Kindneſs ſhe had for him: Which bred in him a kind of troubleſome Obſequiouſneſs; for the Lady never came through the Cloyſters, but Friar *John* was ſtill attending her,

and

and over-doing that Reſpect which ought juſtly to have been paid her; for which the good Lady, who ſuſpected nothing, and was ſafe in her own Innocence, return'd him reciprocal Civilities. This ſo far encouraged the Laſcivious Friar, that he declar'd his Paſſion ſo openly, as gave his Fellow-friars juſt cauſe to ſuſpect him; and who therefore (as much as they durſt) whiſper'd it about to each other: But the Lady taking no farther notice of the Friar, than what was agreeable to the Rules of Civility, and Friar *John* perſwading himſelf that ſhe (as well as himſelf) deſign'd ſomething; at laſt grew ſo confident as to write her a Letter, declaring how much he ador'd and admir'd her, and the violent Paſſion he had for her; this Letter, tho' not without great difficulty, he convey'd into the Lady's hands; who, when ſhe had read it, was fill'd with the greateſt Aſtoniſhment in the World, at the Impudence and Boldneſs of this Luſtful Friar; being extreamly ſurpriz'd that ſo much Laſciouſneſs ſhould be in one who had profeſſedly vowed Chaſtily: And therefore fearing this might be ſome Trick that the Friar was put upon by her Husband, for the Tryal of her Vertue, which ſhe was reſolv'd to keep, (as *Caſar* would have had his Wife

have

have done) not only free from Crime, but from Suſpition, and therefore ſhe ſhew'd the Letter forthwith to her Husband, who tho' he was very well ſatisfied with his Wife's Vertue; yet was extreamly troubled at the Friar's Boldneſs and Ingratitude to his Benefactor, and half repented he had been ſo liberal to found their Convent: But ſince the Friar had preſum'd to make ſo bold and baſe an Offer, he was reſolv'd to be reveng'd upon him; and therefore writes a Letter (which he caus'd his Wife to tranſcribe) wherein ſhe tells the Friar how ſenſible ſhe was of his Affection, and how compaſſionately ſhe receiv'd the Notice he had given her of his Love; acquainting him that ſuch a Day her Husband being to take a Journey to *London*, the following Night he ſhould be welcome to her Houſe, and reap thoſe Pleaſures he ſo much deſir'd. The Friar receives the Letter with mighty Satisfacton, and Sprucifies himſelf againſt the time prefix'd, that ſo he might appear more acceptable to the Lady: Thus did he pleaſe himſelf with the vain Hopes of his great Entertainment, and that he then ſhould take his fill of Love, in the defiling of his Benefactor's Bed; but little thought that ſuch a Bloody Banquet was provided for

for him: The Friar took care to keep the time exactly that was prescrib'd him in the Letter, and was admitted by the Lady herself alone, and conducted to a private Appartment; where instead of beginning those Pleasures he design'd and hop'd, he soon found himself at the End of his Life; for he was no sooner enter'd the Chamber, but in came the Knight and his Man, and with a Rage and Fury equal to such a Crime as the lascivious and luxtful Friar design'd to act, they both immediately strangled him, and put an End at once unto his Life and Lust. Thus Divine Justice overtook him, and Triumph'd in his just Punishment, before he had committed the Adultery he in vain attempted: For tho' the Friar was full of Lust, the vertuous Lady was wholly innocent.

NAR-

NARRAT. III.

AN Ancient Gentleman of good Repute and Worth, having married a young Gentlewoman; and after several Years having no Issue by her, he took into his House a young Gentleman, Son to a Neighbour of his, whose Person and Parts render'd him very acceptable where-ever he came: The old Gentleman having no Children, had pitch'd upon this Gentleman to make him his Heir, being very much delighted in his charming Conversation: Nor was the Wife less taken with him than her Husband; And the young Gentleman being every way accomplish'd, and very agreeable, grew very familiar with the old Gentleman's Wife, their Parity in Years very much occasioning it; and this Familiarity (tho' free from blame) was upon that Account so much taken notice of in the Country where they liv'd, that it cast an ill Reflection upon both: Which the young Gentleman's Father understanding, sent to his Son, and commanded him to repair home: The Son accordingly obeys his Father; but e'er he left the House he takes a Solemn Farewel of the Gen-

Gentlewoman, and told her, That as their Converſation had been always Innocent and free from Guilt, tho' not, it ſeems, from the Suſpition of it; and ſince ſhe had been pleas'd to teſtifie the great Eſteem and Value ſhe had for him, however undeſerved; he could not but let her know the great Reſpect he likewiſe had for her, and which her vertuous Demeanour always exacted from him: And being by his Father's Order now to return home, he had only one Requeſt to make to her, and that was, That if it pleaſed God ſhe did out-live her Husband, (as according to the Courſe of Nature ſhe was like to do) that ſhe would then accept of him for her next Husband; the Gentlewoman having thank'd him for his good Opinion of her, and kind Affection to her, promis'd him, That if it did pleaſe God ſhe did out-live her Husband, ſhe never would be married to any other but himſelf: And for the ſurer Performance of this Promiſe, they added each of them their mutual Oaths: And ſo taking his Leave of her, and afterwards of the old Gentleman, who was much troubled for his going, he left them, and return'd unto his Father, who acquainted him with the Report that had been ſpread abroad concerning him: The Son juſtified both him-

himſelf, and the Gentlewoman; aſſuring his Father, That though he had been familiar with her, yet always innocent and free from blame; as having never done that thing for which his Conſcience could reproach him. His Father, who was a very good Man, was very well ſatisfied with what he ſaid, and then adviſ'd him ſtill ſo to act, that he might always have his Conſcience for his Friend.

About three Months after this, the young Gentleman met accidentally in *London* with the Gentlewoman's Maid; and taking her into a Tavern, gave her a Glaſs of Wine for old Acquaintance ſake; and then enquir'd after the Health of the good Family from whence ſhe came: She told him, That all were well, and that his Company was very much miſs'd at her Maſter's Houſe, and his Return deſir'd by all, unleſs her Miſtreſs. *Your Miſtreſs!* ſays the Gentleman, ſomewhat concern'd! *Don't ſhe deſire I ſhould Return? No, Sir,* ſaid ſhe, *ſhe does not; and I can tell the Reaſon of it too: For I well know what Promiſes has paſt between you, of having one another, if ſhe out-lives my Maſter; but can and do aſſure you all her profeſſions of Reſpect to you, are feigned: She's not for tarrying till my Maſter's Death, for ſhe Enjoys another*

while

while he lives. How! says the Gentleman, (almost transported with Despair and Grief) *Can there be any Creature in the World so false as that?* *'Tis true,* replies the Maid, *upon my certain Knowledge; and were you there, yourself might be a witness of it.* The Gentleman did what he could to Conceal his Resentments at this monstrous Wickedness; and when their Wine was drunk, he took his leave of her. But went away fill'd with all those Resentments that Jealousie and Rage were able to inspire him with. Sometimes he thought of going to her Husband, and discovering all her Wickedness to him; and then, he on the contrary thought he might be impos'd on by the Maid that gave him this Relation: And therefore did resolve he would be further satisfied before he would conclude her guilty of acting that which he could scarcely think on without horror and amazement.

A few Days after this, he went down to his Father's again; where he Receiv'd a Letter from the old Gentleman his Friend, inviting him again to come and live with him; to which he return'd an Answer, That he would be with him on such a Night, provided he made no Body acquainted with it; and that he might come through the Garden-door, and there Discourse him. The

good

good old Gentleman wonder'd at this Precaution, but promis'd all should be as he directed.

The time appointed being come, he met the old Gentleman accordingly; and told him he was strictly forbidden by his Father to come thither; but not out of any Disrespect at all to him or to his Lady; but only because a Rumour had been spread abroad th' Country, that he had held a too familiar and criminal Conversation with his Wife; which he at the same time protested he was never guilty of, so much as in a thought; nor never had seen any thing in her, but what became the strictest Vertue in the World. And that the only thing that look'd like Criminal, which yet he thought was innocent enough, was that at his last parting, he had desir'd her to promise him, that if it pleas'd God she out-liv'd her Husband, she would accept of him to be her next. And therefore that his returning home and tarrying was from no Disrespect to him or her, to both whom he had been mightily, engag'd; but only that he might avoid and take off those ill Reflections, that by the ignorance and malice of some wicked People, were very apt to be cast upon his Family, whose Honour he preferr'd before his own.

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The old Gentleman was very well satisfied with what he had said, and told him he still retain'd the same kind thoughts of him he had before; and that he was oblig'd to him for being so careful of his Honour: That whensoever it should please God to give him his *Quietus est*, and take him hence, he would leave him so great a Legacy in Land, as might testifie to the World the Value he had for him; and since he found it would not be Unacceptable to him, he would bequeath to him his Wife. The young Gentleman made him a suitable Return of Thanks for all his Favours, as well those that he had receiv'd, as those that he had promis'd him, especially for his last and deareſt Requeſt, wiſhing at the same time that the old Gentleman might long live to enjoy her himself. And so took his leave of him.

The old Gentleman, after he had parted with him, went presently to Bed; and the young one, as he thought, went home again immediately; but he having a mind to understand the Truth of that which had been told him at *London*; and being well known and belov'd by all the Servants, he enquir'd after her Waiting-maid; and having spoken with her, he only ask'd her, if her Mistreſs lay alone that Night? To which she answer-

ing, *Yes*; he straight went up Stairs to her Chamber very softly; (being acquainted with all the Rooms in the House, and knowing well what Chamber she lay in, when she lay alone, which she often us'd to do) and standing at her door a little while, he heard anothers Voice different from hers, discoursing with her; at which being surpriz'd, he listen'd more attentively, and plainly heard her say, *You may speak louder now, for all the Family's abed, and there is none that is so near to over-hear us.* And then he heard a Man to say distinctly: *Then let's again renew the Acts of Love, and quench our amorous Fires with fresh Enjoyments.* Which he could hear 'em perfectly a doing; and afterwards he heard her Lover say, *Tho' I am now blest in your sweet Embraces, yet this one Thought disturbs my Happiness, to think that it may quickly have an end.* *What do you mean by that?* replies the Gentlewoman. *I mean,* says he, *that I shall lose you when your Husband dies, for you have sworn yourself away unto another Husband.* O, reply'd she, *let that never trouble you; for he's a great deal too Precise for me; and that I swore to have him, was only that he might the less suspect me, whilst I enjoy'd yourself.* His patience now was quite worn out, to hear himself thus made a Property to serve her Lust;

and

and therefore was about to break the Door, and with his Sword stick the Adulterers together: But recollecting of himself again, he thought how much it would reflect upon her Husband, and publish his Dishonour through the Country; and therefore out of Respect to him, he went away, and left 'em without disturbing of 'em.

When he came home, he was the most concern'd and pensive Man that could be seen; with horror still reflecting upon the Treachery and Wickedness of that base Woman. At last, to give some ease to his almost distracted thoughts, he was resolv'd to Travel; and told his Father so; to which his Father readily agreed, hoping that Travel might cure him of his Melancholly. When all things were made ready for his Journey, he went to take his leave of his old Friend, who receiv'd and parted from him with all the Endearments that a true Friend could do: And just as he was going, that dissembling Cockatrice of an Adulteress express'd the greatest Grief immaginable, and seem'd might'y loth to part with him; but he receiv'd all that she said with very much Indifference, and only told her, That she must pardon him, (being somewhat indispos'd with the Fatigue he'd undergone in setling

things before he went his Voyage, that he could have no further Conversation with her now, but hop'd she still remember'd what she had promis'd; and that he did intend a Letter for her the next Day, wherein she might find something worth her Reading; and so took his Leave of her. And as soon as he was return'd to his Father's House, he went into his Chamber, and writ the following Letter:

Dissembling and Treacherous Woman!

HAd not my Regard for your Worthy, but much Wronged Husband's Honour, prevented me, you had e'er this time felt my Resentments in another manner; but yet in such a one, as your Adultery and Breach of Faith both to your Lord and me, have justly merited. Know therefore, that I myself have been a Witness to your Wickedness; and was no farther then your Chamber-door on Thursday *last was three Weeks, when you and your Gallant were both engag'd in each others lustful Embraces: And there was Witness how all along you made me but your Property, to Screen your Lust from your abused Husband's Eyes, by blinding mine with a Pretence of Love and Vertue: And that you may not think I write without Book, I will repeat the very Passages that past betwixt you, which your own Conscience will wit-*

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ness to you to be true: The first thing that I heard, so plain as I might understand it, was yourself saying, You may speak louder now, for all the Family's in Bed, and there's none that lies so near to over-hear us. *And then I heard your lustful Gallant say,* Then lets again Renew the Acts of Love, and quench our amorous Fires with fresh Enjoyments. *Which after you had done, I heard him say,* Tho' I am now blest in your sweet Embraces, yet this one thought disturbs my Happiness, to think that it may quickly have an end. *And then I heard you ask him what he meant by that: To which I heard him answer,* I mean that I shall lose you when your Husband dies, for you have sworn yourself unto another Husband. *To which I heard you make him this Reply,* Let that ne'r trouble you; for he's a great deal too precise for me; and that I swore to have him, was only that he might the less suspect me, whilst I enjoy'd yourself. *You may by this assure yourself, that I am privy to your Wickedness; and yet forbore to sheath my Sword in your adulterous Breast, and stick your letcherous Gallant unto that Bed of Lust he lay upon; and thereby have at once reveng'd your Husband's Quarrel and my own. But tho' I spar'd you, Heaven will not do so; for,* Whoremongers and Adulterers God will judge; *and at his*

But you shortly must appear, and there be judg'd for all your Wickedness. For my own part, I have a thousand times kneel'd down to Heaven, and return'd Thanks for my Deliverance from such a Snare as I was in a likelihood of falling into; and therefore never will come near you more: I have indeed conceal'd your Shame from every one; but 'tis well known to Heaven's all-seeing Eye, who may by ways you know not of, declare it to the World before you are aware. Then take my Counsel e'er it be too late: Discard your Lover, and Reform your Life, and wash your filthy and polluted Soul in Tears of true Repentance, from all that Crimson Guilt it has contracted, by your repeated Acts of Wickedness. This is the last and best Advice of your abused Friend, whom you are never like to see again.

This Letter he sent the next Day by one of his Servants, to whom he gave a special charge to deliver it privately into her own hand; and so pursu'd his Voyage, going up to *London*, in order to take Shipping at *Gravesend*.

The Messenger he had sent with his Letter deliver'd it to her own Hands with all the Privacy imaginable; for which having rewarded him, she strait went up into her Chamber, and there read it; which she

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had no sooner done, but she was so confounded she knew not what to do or say; she saw her Wickedness was all discover'd and known to him from whom she most of all endeavour'd to conceal it; and being tormented with her own Guilt and Wickedness, she grew distracted, and in a few Days after, in the midst of her Distractions, ended her wretched Life. And having lock'd up the Letter in her Cabinet, it was there found by her Husband after her Death: And seeing by that, both his Wive's Wickedness, and the young Gentleman's Vertue, he, when he dy'd, left his Estate to him, and left him a rich Heir at his return from Travel.

NARRAT. IV.

THe first King of the *Lombards* who Conquered that part of *Italy*, which since from them is called *Lombardy*, was named *Alboyne*, who was a Man of a great and Martial Spirit, and both valiant and fortunate in Actions of War. In the Progress of his Victories, he Conquered in Battel the King of *Gipides*, whose name was *Gunmond*; and having caused his Head to be smitten off, he barbarously made a drinking Cup thereof, wherein he used to drink upon his Feasting-days, in remembrance of his Conquest and Victory. But notwithstanding his Cruelty to the Father, he had a particular Kindness for the Daughter, whose name was *Rosamond*, who was indeed a Lady of Extraordinary Beauty, insomuch that he made her his Wife.

But some time after, being at *Verona*, and having got over merry with drinking of Wine, he would needs have his Wife to drink out of her Father's Skull; which being an unnatural thing, she refused, and desir'd to be excus'd; but he being a Man of a rough Temper, would not be deny'd, and there-

therefore compell'd her to it: But she took it as so great an Affront, that she converted that Love which before she had really born him, into an implacable and deadly Hatred; which nothing would satisfie but his Death, which she was resolv'd to accomplish, whatever should be the issue. And she was as good as her word: For there is nothing more implacable than a Woman, when she set upon Revenge.

And the better to execute this bloody Determination, she conferred with a Gentleman in whom she could confide, and whom she knew would be true to her, named *Hermigilde*; who telling her she had reason on her side, and incites her to that Revenge, to which she was but too much enclin'd before: But withal, told her, That to execute a matter of that importance, she would require the Aid of a Valiant Knight in the Court called *Paradine*; to whom he therefore instantly imparted it, but he refused to be concerned in it, looking upon it to be too horrid a piece of Treason. The Queen finding her hope therein to be frustrated, and fearing to be discovered by *Paradine*, was in great perplexeity: But being advertized by *Hermigilde* that *Paradine* dearly affected one of her attending Ladies, and that

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at such a place (which he nam'd) they used to resort together, and enjoy each other; she was resolv'd to stop at nothing, but turned Whore herself to accomplish her Revenge: And therefore understanding by *Hermigilde* what time *Paradine* and his Lady were to meet at the place of Secresie, she found at that time some other imployment for the Lady, and then goes herself and enjoys *Paradine* in her stead: *Paradine* keeping her then company a long time, and imagin'd nothing but that it was the Mistress of his dear Affections.

The Queen, who spent all this time in soft Whispers and Dalliance, not using any one Word whereby she might be discover'd, perceiving she had then a fit oppertunity, spake thus unto him, *Knowest thou* Paradine, *with whom thou keepest company? Full well*, answer'd *Paradine, it is with the Joy of my Heart, and the Delight of my Soul, my dearest* Remagunda. *Thou lyest, false Traytor*, straight reply'd the Queen; *it is with* Rosamond *thy Sovereign's Wife, whose Honour thou hast dar'd to Violate, and in this manner to Abuse; and Die thou must, by the just Wrath of* Alboyine, *except thou save thy Life by killing him: Consider therefore whether his Life or thine be dearest to thee?* When *Paradine* consider'd his dangerous

gerous Condition, and that it was too late now to retreat, without expoſing his own Life to the Queen's Malice, and the King's Reſentment; he told the Queen, That being over-come by that unmerited Favour ſhe had beſtow'd upon him, he was reſolv'd to Sacrifice his Life to ſerve her, in whatſoever thing ſhe would command him. And ſo after mutual Endearments, both he, the Queen and *Hermigilde* together, contriv'd how to effect the Murther of the King; Which was in this manner:

The King uſed to ſleep in the heat of the Day, when all avoided the Chamber, except the Queen. Now the King being a Man of Courage and high Reſolution, ever ſlept like a Souldier, with his Sword girt about him; which againſt this intended time of Treaſon, the Queen had tied ſo faſt in the Scabbord, that he could by no means help himſelf therewith. *Paradine* and *Hermigilde* waiting the hour, which was upon the Queen's coming forth, they entred the Chamber; but for all their ſofely treading, the King heard them, and ſtarted from his Bed; and when he ſaw two Men armed with Weapons, a ſudden Fury poſſeſſed his Spirit; and perceiving by their looks their Deſign was againſt him, he ſought to defend him-

himself with his Sword, which failing him by the aforesaid Treachery of the Queen; they in the mean time with their Weapons striking every where at him, and wounding him, he caught up a Stool, and therewith for a while defended himself, till in the end they deprived him of Life, without any noise heard, or any suspition of murther. The King not coming out of his Chamber at the usual hour, the Servants going to see what was the matter, found him dead, wounded in divers places; which caus'd great Lamentation throughout the Court, the Queen taking on more than any one: But the Murtherers could not be so much as ghess'd at.

The King being thus made away, all things seem'd to go on with a smooth Countenance; *Hermigilde* (who was a Man of great Interest and Power) possessing himself of the Palace, and quickly after making the Queen his Wife.

But notwithstanding all their Cloak-packing and carrying of Matters privately, the *Lombard*'s came in a little time after to the knowledge of the King's Murther and Murtherers, the Barbarity whereof, so much incensed them, that they resolved severely to Revenge the same. This being notified

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to the Queen and her Accomplices, she packed up most of her Jewels and Royal Treasure, and fled away: But, alas! whither could she fly from Divine Justice? Her Adultery and Murther follow'd her where-ever she went, and in the end brought down deserved Vengeance on her guilty Head, and made her fall by her own Arrows. For hasting away for *Lombardy* with'd the speed they could, they came to *Reverence*, then govern'd by a Lieutenant of the Empire, nam'd *Longinus*, who kept that place for *Tiberius*, Son to the Emperor *Justinian*, of *Constantinople*, by whom they were courteously receiv'd.

But they had not been long there, before *Longinus* became enamour'd of *Rosamond*, and therefore partly to enjoy her Love, and partly to possess that Mass of Mony and Pearls that she had brought with her, and likewise that by her Faction he might raise a War against the *Lombards*; *Longinus* perswaded her to procure the Death of *Hermigilde*, and to take himself for her Husband; to which he found her very tractible, for having parted with her Vertue, there was no Vice that she would boggle at: Hoping besides, she might advance herself from that exil'd Condition she was in, by marrying with the Emperor's Lieutenant. *Her-*

Hermigilde having been one Day at the Bath, *Rosamond* (in prosecution of her Promise to *Longinus*,) presented him at his coming forth, with an empoyson'd Potion; perswading him it was a soveraign Cordial for his Health; by which Perswasion he drank up a good part thereof: But finding of it presently afflict his Body, he soon perceiv'd that he was poyson'd; and therefore drawing forth his Sword in the extremity of Rage, he presently compelled *Rosamond* to drink up all that he had left behind; thereby receiving the just Reward of her own Treachery. And thus at one and the same instant, they both receiv'd that Death which they had forfeited to Justice long before. The Tidings of their Deaths being brought unto *Longinus*, the Lieutenant, he caused the young Lady, *Alvisinda*, (who was the Daughter of King *Alboyne* by his first Wife, and which *Rosamond* had brought along with her out of *Lombardy*) to be seized on, and sent her with all her Jewels and Treasure to the Emperour *Tyberius*, at *Constantinople*; and thither also he sent *Paradine*, who first committed Adultery with *Rosamond*, (altho' ignorantly) and after wilfully joyn'd with her in the Destruction and Murder of his Soveraign. The innocent young Lady was well re-

receiv'd by the Emperour, who respected her accordingly to her Birth and Quality: But *Paradine*, as the just Reward of the Treason he had committed against his Soveraign, had both his Eyes pull'd out: After which he liv'd in pain and anguish for a while, and then dy'd most miserably, as an Instance of the Triumphs of Divine Justice (as did *Rosamond* his Accomplice also) over those horrid and Nefandous Crimes of Murder and Adultery.

NARRAT. V.

I Will now conclude with this short Narration, which tho' not Tragical, is perhaps more strange than any that has been before recited:

In the Reign of *Charles* the Fifth, Emperor of *Germany*, a young Gentleman of Noble Parents, in the Court of the Emperour, was mightily enamour'd of a young Gentlewoman, to that degree that nothing but Enjoyment would allay his Passion; but she being averse to him, he watches a convenient Oppertunity, and by surprize follows her: For which he was cast into Prison, in order to receive the just Reward so great a Crime deserv'd. Be-

Being in Prison, and having there no expectation of any thing but Death, the Horror he was under for his Crime, and the expectation of Death was terrible to him, and his Fear so great, that with excessive Grief of Mind his Countenance was so alter'd, that the Goaler did not know him; for whereas over Night, he was a brisk fresh-colour'd young Man; the next morning his Face appear'd very Wan, his Beard drivell'd, his Hair turn'd perfectly gray, and all his youthful Vigor quite vanish'd, that he appear'd like a Man of Fourscore. The Goaler having given an Account hereof, it came to the Emperor's Ear, who knowing him very well; sent for him, and seeing of him in that condition, for the Strangeness of the thing, pardon'd him; accounting the great Fear he had undergone, and those surprizing Effects of it, a sufficient Punishment.

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